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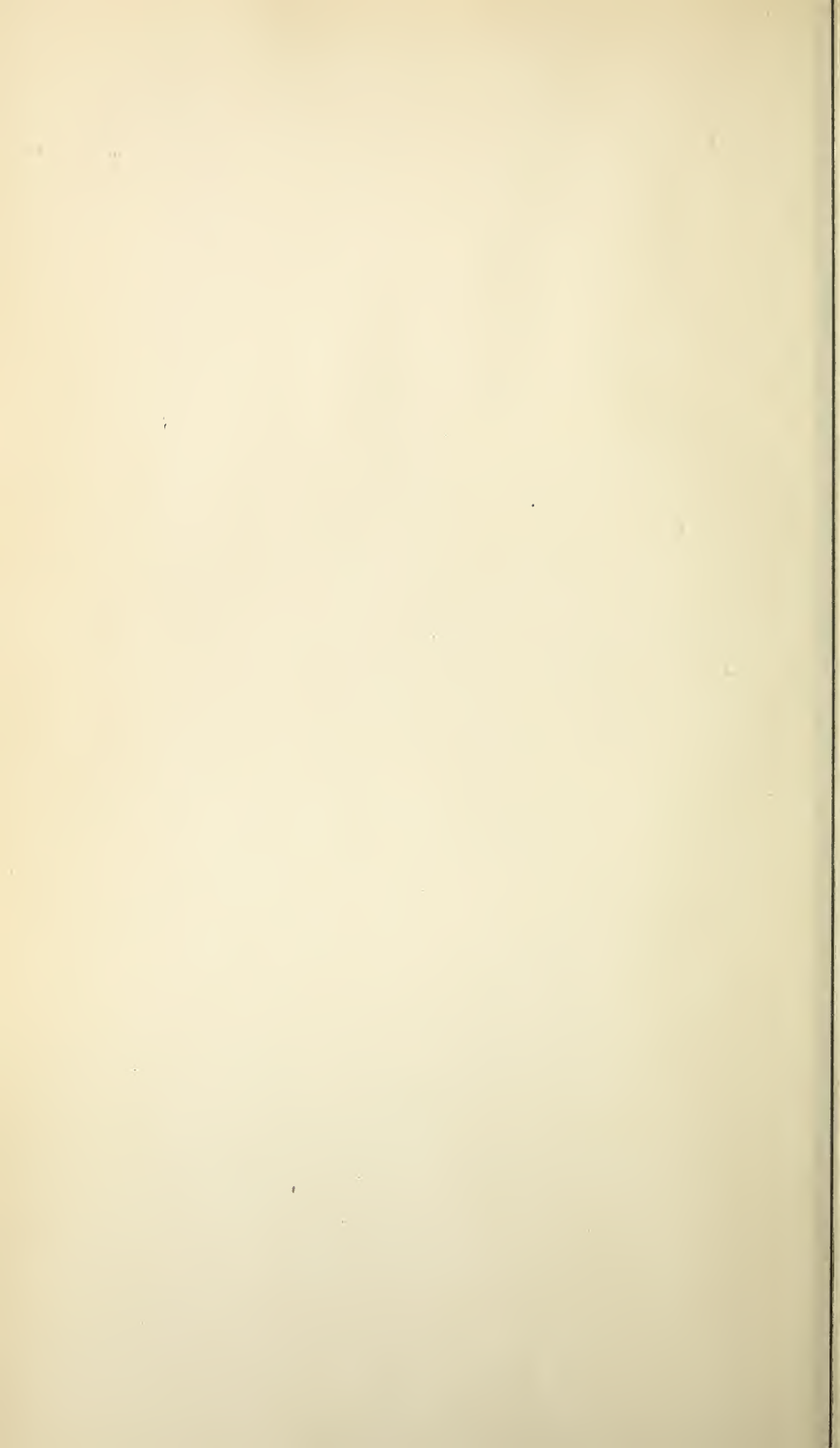
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*Somersetshire*  
*Archæological & Natural History*  
*Society.*

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PROCEEDINGS  
DURING THE YEAR, 1897.

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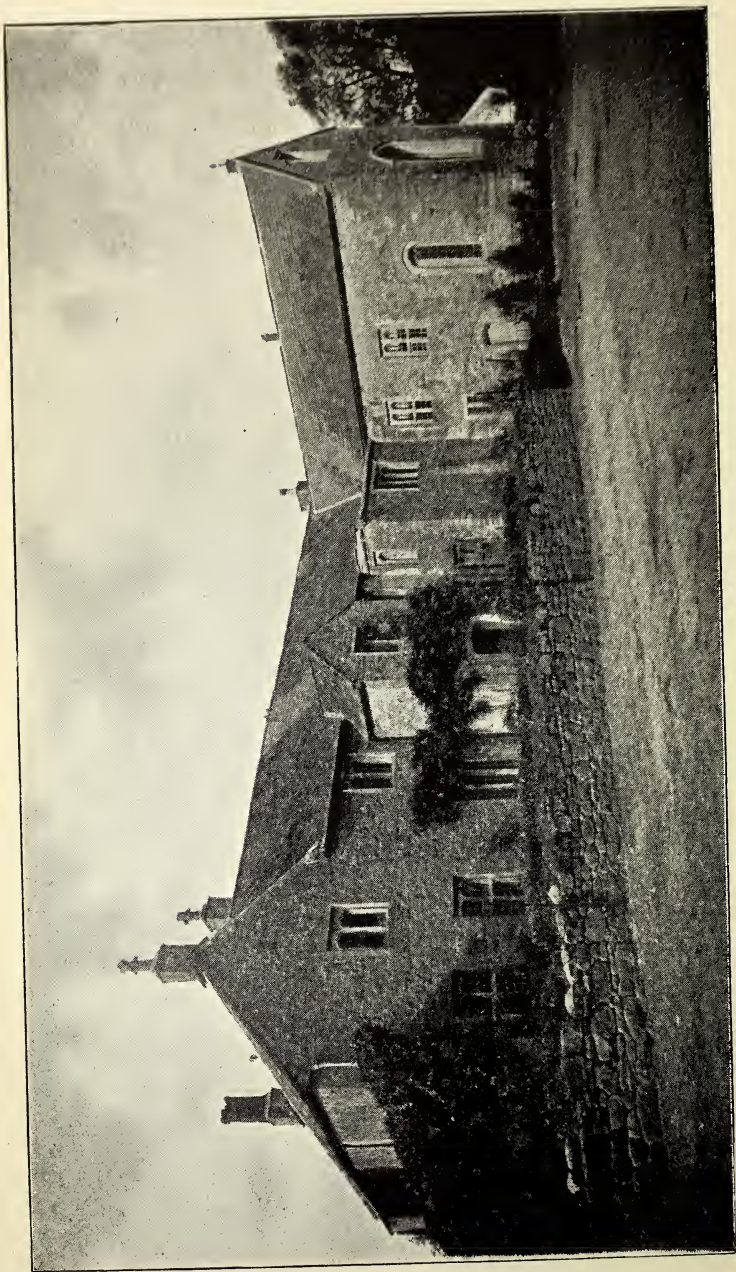
VOL. XLIII.

*The Council of the Somersetshire Archaeological and Natural History Society desire that it should be distinctly understood that although the volume of PROCEEDINGS is published under their direction, they do not hold themselves in any way responsible for any statements or opinions expressed therein ; the authors of the several papers and communications being alone responsible.*





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BLACKMORE FARM, CANNINGTON



PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
**Somersetshire**  
Archaeological & Natural History  
**Society**  
FOR THE YEAR 1897.  
—  
VOL. XLIII.



**Taunton:**  
BARNICOTT AND PEARCE, FORE STREET  
MDCCCXCVII.



BARNICOTT AND PEARCE  
TAUNTON



1400941

P R E F A C E .

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THE thanks of the Society are due to Mr. W. H. Hamilton Rogers for supplying the whole of the illustrations to his paper ; to the Rev. Dr. Penny, R.N., for "Blackmore Farm," of which interesting house there is no illustration among those in the Pigott collection ; to Dr. Nicholls, of Langport, for kindly taking the excellent photograph of Othery, from which our picture is taken ; to Mr. Charles Tite for pointing out where Hugo's "Athelney" was to be found ; and to Rev. E. H. Bates and Rev. D. Ll. Hayward for much help most kindly rendered.

F. W. W.

*December, 1897.*

[The view of Blackmore is from a photograph by Hosier, of Bridgwater.]

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PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
SOMERSETSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND  
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY  
DURING THE YEAR  
1897.

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THE forty-ninth annual meeting of the Society was held in the Town Hall, Bridgwater, on Wednesday, August 4th. Mr. H. D. SKRINE, a former president of the Society, opened the meeting by introducing Mr. E. J. STANLEY, M.P., as their President. He said he had no difficulty in doing so, because he felt that the acquaintance that he had had with Mr. Stanley gave him the privilege of saying that that gentleman was likely to be a good President of the Society. He took a great interest in all matters connected with its neighbourhood, historic and otherwise; and living, as he did, near the Quantocks he was imbued with the history of that part. As a legislator, Mr. Stanley was a straightforward, loyal supporter of the Constitution and Church and State, and one of those men that certainly ought to be the legislators to guide the course of this great Empire.

Mr. STANLEY, M.P., who was received with applause, thanked the meeting heartily for the honour they had conferred upon him, but said he should defer any observations he had to make to a later time, when it was usual for the President to make some remarks.

## Report.

Lieut.-Col. BRAMBLE, F.S.A., Hon. Gen. Sec., then presented the annual report as follows :

“Your Committee beg to present their forty-ninth annual report.

“During the year forty-seven new names have been added to your list of members. On the other hand the loss by deaths and resignations has been twenty, leaving a net gain of twenty-seven members. The number is 604, as against 577 at the date of our last report. A County Society, numbering some 600 members, can undoubtedly claim a leading position, but there are still many names which your Committee would desire to see enrolled amongst their members, and they have to express the hope of a still further increase during the ensuing year.

“The debit balance on the Society’s General Account has during the year been reduced from £20 0s. 8d. to £9 6s. 9d.

“The cost of the volume of *Proceedings* was £77 16s. 5d., as against £108 12s. 6d. last year, and £192 4s. 5d. in the previous year.

“The debit balance of last year on the Castle Restoration Fund has now been reduced to £44 11s. 9d.

“Your Committee regret to state that the ‘Castle House’ still remains void.

“During the year ending 31st December, 1896, the number of visitors to the Museum was 4,610, as against 4,964 in 1895.

“The Index to Collinson’s History is making satisfactory progress. Upwards of one hundred pages have been already printed.

“The Committee have pleasure in announcing that Mr. F. T. Elworthy has prepared, and kindly placed at their disposal, a full and complete Index to volumes XXI-XL of the Society’s *Proceedings*. An index to the first twenty volumes was issued some years ago : the *Proceedings* are therefore now

indexed up to the end of the year 1894. This index now in the press, will be issued to subscribers at 5s. per copy.

“The Bibliography of the county, prepared some years since by Mr. Emanuel Green, F.S.A., is also in the press, and will be issued to subscribers at £2 12s. 6d. per copy.

“Subscribers to all or any of these publications are earnestly solicited.

“A deed has been prepared for the purpose of formally carrying out the appointment of new trustees made at the last annual meeting, and is now in course of signature.

“The additions to the library during the current year have been numerous and important. At the suggestion and on the application of your Hon. Sec., the Rev. F. W. Weaver, the Deputy-Keeper of the Public Records has forwarded twenty-one volumes of the publications of the Record Office in exchange for a complete set of the Society’s *Proceedings*. Mr. John Batten, F.S.A., past president and one of your trustees, a staunch supporter of your Society, has presented a complete set of annual reports of the Deputy-Keeper of the Public Record Office, the Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society, 1839 to 1895, and other volumes. About fifty monographs on Natural History and antiquarian subjects have been received from the Royal University of Upsala, in exchange for a number of volumes of the Society’s *Proceedings*. Numerous other volumes have been received by exchange, purchase, and donation.

“Your Society has been fortunate during the past year in losing few members by death; but amongst the number they deeply regret to record that of Mr. Edmund Chisholm-Batten, for a very long series of years one of your most active supporters and a constant attendant at the meetings of your Committee, where he frequently occupied the chair. The following resolution of sympathy has been passed and communicated to the family: ‘That this Committee desires to put on record an expression of its great regret at the loss of Mr. Edmund Chisholm-Batten, whose keen interest in the work of

our Society made him a most useful member of the Council and a pleasant and instructive companion at our Annual Meetings: and whose well-informed mind has enriched the volumes of our *Proceedings* with many valuable and interesting Papers. It would also express its hearty sympathy with his sons and daughters in their natural sorrow on account of the departure from amongst them of so good and honoured a father.'

The late Sir Augustus Wollaston Franks, K.C.B., F.R.S., President of the Society of Antiquaries, was a member of your Society, and his death is a severe loss to the country generally as well as to the special pursuits with which his name is particularly identified.

"In their last report your Committee suggested that the annual meeting in 1898, when your Society will have entered upon the fiftieth year of its existence, should be held at Taunton, its head-quarters and birthplace, and that a strong and well-organised effort should be made on that occasion to provide a fund for the repair and preservation—not restoration—of the Castle. The numerous festivities which have marked the current year have rendered it undesirable, well-nigh impossible, that any steps should be taken in the direction indicated. Now it is time that the matter should be taken seriously into consideration, and your Committee trust that every member will do his or her best to render the Archæological Week of 1898 a complete success."

Mr. H. HOBHOUSE, M.P., in moving the adoption of the report, said he thought they would all agree with him that on the whole it was a very satisfactory document and one that they could adopt without hesitation. It showed that there had been a steady increase of members during the past year, and also, what was still more satisfactory, a steady decrease of the various deficits on the various funds. What was more, the report showed that the work of the Society—its permanent work as apart from the more temporary interest and satis-



faction of the annual meetings—was being steadily carried on. They had a record of progress in various most important though laborious pieces of work, such as the indexing of Collinson's History and their whole *Proceedings*, and the publication of that most valuable Bibliography of Mr. Emanuel Green's. Then they had had several important records of parishes. Mr. Hancock had brought out an interesting monograph on the parish of Selworthy, and Mr. Trask was engaged in writing a 'History of Norton-sub-Hamdon,' and there might be others. They had a Record Society steadily at work, increasing its valuable and interesting volumes year by year; and in all these ways they had continual accretions going on towards that great work, which, he sincerely hoped, would not be long delayed—a new and complete and satisfactory History of the County of Somerset. If there were any part of the Society's work to which full justice was not being done he thought it was the Natural History section. He thought there was a very interesting contribution to it a year or two ago in a Flora of the county, but he thought more might be done towards elucidating and introducing practical interest in the very varied and remarkable geological formations which prevailed throughout that county. He hoped that at every yearly meeting there would be some one member with a practical acquaintance of the subject who would be selected to inform the audience on the most striking features of the natural history of the district. With regard to their place of meeting that year, he would like to say that he and others who were present at the last meeting at Sherborne, rather suggested that this year the meeting should take place at Glastonbury. Their wishes had not been carried out exactly in the form they were expressed; but yesterday they had a very remarkable meeting of a very distinctive archæological character at Glastonbury, and he recommended every member of that Society to read the address of the Bishop-elect of Bristol, which was delivered within those suggestive and venerable ruins yesterday afternoon, and which

struck him at the time as a discourse most suitable to be delivered to the members of the Archæological Society, as well as to that larger and more august audience to which it was actually delivered. He dared say it was partly on account of that great gathering of bishops that it was thought better that the Society should meet at Bridgwater that day. It was twenty years ago, he thought, that that Society last met at Bridgwater. He had cast his eye over their *Proceedings* at that time, and he was somewhat painfully struck with the great gaps made during the last twenty years in the ranks of the leading men of that Society, by death and other causes. He had no doubt their President would say something on the subject, but they could not but remember with regret that twenty years ago they had there such great authorities as Mr. Freeman, Bishop Clifford, Mr. Dickinson and others, who were now no longer amongst them. They were glad to see such veterans as Mr. Skrine there that day; and they found that the permanent Secretaries of the Society had been replaced by such very active, useful, and comparatively young members as Lieut.-Col. Bramble and Mr. Weaver. Next year the Society would, as the report had stated, hold its Jubilee at Taunton. They had heard a great deal of Jubilee, perhaps, recently and during the last ten years, but he hoped that as the report recommended, some effort would be made during the next twelve months to clear off the debt on the Taunton Castle Fund, to put it in a proper position to do justice to what was, after all, a most important possession of the Society; and generally on the question of funds he thought that in a comparatively large and wealthy county, with such interesting and extensive archæological associations, all their funds ought to be placed, at any rate by the conclusion of the Jubilee year, on a perfectly satisfactory basis.

The Rev. E. H. BATES seconded the motion. He dwelt upon the fact that works relating to local history were now being produced in very considerable numbers, and said this

showed a general and well-founded interest in the history of the county. He had everywhere been astonished at the amount of interest shown in the antiquities of the county, and they found antiquities in almost every village. They should try to utilise this wave of antiquarianism which had spread over the county in the production of a new history. The more one read Collinson the more one felt how inadequate he was. The motion was adopted.

In the absence of the Treasurer (Mr. H. J. BADCOCK), Lieut.-Col. BRAMBLE read the financial statement :

### Treasurer's Account.

*The Treasurer in Account with the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society, from January 1st to December 31st, 1896.*

Dr.			Cr.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
1896.			1895, Dec. 31st.		
By Members' Entrance Fees...	26	5 0	To Balance of former Account ...	20	0 8
„ Members' Subscriptions in arrear			„ Expenses attending Annual		
1 for the year 1893 ...	0	10 6	Meeting at Sherborne ...	10	7 11
3 for the year 1894 ...	1	11 6	„ Expenses of Removal of the relics		
13 for the year 1895 ...	6	16 6	of a British Burial from Ex-		
			moor ...	3	0 10
	8	18 6	„ Stationery, Printing, &c. ...	13	0 1
„ Members' Subscriptions (509) for			„ Typewriting Index to "Collin-		
1896 ...	267	3 6	son" ...	5	0 0
„ Members' Subscriptions in ad-			„ Typewriting Index to "Proceed-		
vance, 19 for 1897 ...	9	19 0	ings," vols. 21 to 25 ...	0	15 0
„ Non-Members' Excursion Tickets	9	15 0	„ Purchase of Books, Specimens,		
„ Museum Admission Fees...	25	1 3	&c. ...	3	15 1
„ Sale of Publications ...	7	6 8	„ Cases, Fittings, Repair, &c. ...	21	3 11
„ Donation per Rev. S. O. Baker	0	10 6	„ Coal and Gas ...	18	5 8
Balance ...	9	6 9	„ Printing and Binding vol. 41 ...	94	18 3
			„ Balance of Postage of vol. 41 ...	1	19 3
			„ Postage on Account of vol. 42 ...	8	0 0
			„ Illustrations, vol. 41 ...	3	13 1
			„ Illustrations, vol. 42 ...	5	10 0
			„ Curator's Salary, one year, to		
			Christmas, 1896 ...	105	0 0
			„ Errand Boy ...	9	2 0
			„ Insurance ...	8	0 6
			„ Rates and Taxes ...	14	3 3
			„ Subscriptions to Societies ...	8	13 0
			„ Postage, Carriage, &c. ...	8	3 11½
			„ Sundries ...	1	13 8½
	£364	6 2		£364	6 2

H. J. BADCOCK,  
Treasurer.

July 28th, 1897. Examined and compared with the vouchers } W. M. KELLY,  
and Bank Book, and found correct. } J. E. W. WAKEFIELD.





(being members of the Society), with the substitution on the latter of Mr. F. T. Elworthy and the Rev. Preb. Askwith for Major Foster and the Rev. W. S. Tomkins; with Mr. W. Bidgood as Curator and Assistant Secretary.

The Rev. E. L. PENNY seconded the motion, which was adopted.

The Rev. JEFFERY WORTHINGTON proposed that the arrangements for the next meeting and the selection of the President for next year should be left in the hands of the Committee. He said that with regard to the place of meeting he thought they had for several years looked forward to the meeting of 1898 being held in Taunton, as in that year they would celebrate the Jubilee of their Society, and he hoped it would be most successfully carried out. He was quite certain that friends at Taunton would give a very hearty welcome to the Society, and that they would make the meeting as prolific of funds as of interest. He could not help recurring for the moment to the remark of Mr. Hobhouse with regard to those who had passed from them, and they would miss at Taunton the late Mr. Chisholm Batten, who would have been an excellent member of the Executive Committee had he been spared until next year.

Mr. E. A. FRY seconded the motion, which was carried.

The Rev. F. W. WEAVER proposed the election of thirty-four new members of the Society.

Lieut.-Col. BRAMBLE seconded the proposal, and said he was very pleased with the increase which the Society was making. Some of the large societies which extended over the whole of the country thought they had done well when they had 400 members, but the Somersetshire Society had 600, and he hoped that when they held their Jubilee meeting at Taunton next year they would have a still larger number. They had a valuable property in Taunton Castle—a more valuable property, he thought, than any other Archæological Society in England; and as they had a large building they

were in honour bound to fill it with a large library and a large museum. This was a matter for the whole of the county, and not for Taunton only. They should make Taunton Castle an honour to the county. The proposal was adopted.

### **Somerset Record Society.**

The Rev. F. W. WEAVER read a letter from the Rev. Preb. Holmes, Vicar of Wookey, Wells, who expressed regret that he was unable to be present, Mr. Weaver remarking that he was kept away by the ceremony at Wells. Preb. Holmes gave a short account of the proceedings of the Somerset Record Society, and mentioned that early in the autumn a volume of Somerset Assize Rolls, edited by Mr. Chadwyck-Healey, Q.C., would be published, and it was likely to be of great interest. Mr. Weaver said that some time ago the Town Clerk of Bridgwater kindly afforded him an opportunity of looking over the accounts of the Churchwardens of Bridgwater, which dated back to 1368, and were of a most valuable and interesting character. They were magnificently written and in a splendid state of preservation. They must have been kept in a peculiarly dry place. They often found that the old papers in Somerset were ruined by damp, owing to the humidity of the atmosphere, which was good for pastures and cattle, but bad for old documents. He hoped the meeting would result in the publication of the accounts. The Mayor and Corporation would naturally not allow them to go out of their custody, and the work of copying and preparation would therefore have to be done by a resident of Bridgwater. There were ancient accounts at Stogursey, which some years ago Sir Alexander Hood was kind enough to lend him. He copied them out and wrote a paper thereon.

## **The President's Address.**

Mr. STANLEY said it was the custom of the Society that he whom they honoured by electing President for the year should address a few observations to them on such points of the archaeological or other questions of the district as he might think desirable to bring to their notice. He must thank them, after twenty years, for having again invited him to become their President. On the first occasion he had to send an excuse to the Society, and he did it with great regret, although the circumstance which obliged him to be absent was one which he knew would give him great happiness, which had continued ever since. He had read as much as he had been able of the different opinions of different people regarding the antiquities of the neighbourhood, and he was sorry to find the opinion of one who said that they were not many in number and had been frequently described at great length. He did not think that was right, and he thought he could point out several features of special interest which were not included in their list of tours for the next three days. He believed they would find that the Natural History department had not been very much considered by the Society, and there were several quarries near Quantock Lodge which were of an interesting character. He had the authority of so well-known a geologist as Sir Roderick Murchison for stating that the quarry of green stone of which Quantock Lodge was built was of very great interest. Most people who saw the house considered that it was built of green sandstone ; but it was not so, for the stone used was a highly igneous rock which took a polish, and the party visiting Quantock Lodge on the next day would see a table of the polished stone. The late Rev. Mr. Lance, of Buckland St. Mary, had had some columns of the stone polished, with which he decorated his beautiful church which was still being adorned and beautified. There was another large quarry near Adscombe, in which the stone alternated very largely, and it

contained building-stone, and limestone, which when burnt produced lime as well as polished marble. From this quarry a large chimney-piece for Dunster Castle was carved for Mr. Luttrell.

Another object of interest was a cave at Holwell, which had never been thoroughly explored. There was a little difficulty in the exploration, inasmuch as to make further progress one had to crawl upon the knees, and as the ground was rather wet people shrank from further explorations. Some day, however, it might be completed, and it was rather curious that in a limestone district like the Quantocks it should be the only cavern of which they had any knowledge. There were also in the district the remains of the workings of upper mines, as he knew to his cost, because after heavy rains the soil fell in and he had to send several cartloads of soil to fill up. In addition there were a number of marble quarries to which a certain interest attached. If they had time on the next day some might like to visit the quarry from which the stone of Quantock Lodge was obtained. Sir Roderick Murchison had expressed the opinion that it was igneous rock from very near the crater of a volcano; but he reassured those to whom he told that, by saying that it was not likely that the volcano would break out again in the same place. There was one portion of their Natural History in which he would like to destroy a fallacy. There was a general belief that, as on Exmoor, which had been a Royal forest from time immemorial, so in the Quantocks red deer had been for centuries. These beautiful animals, however, were claimed to have been first turned out on the Quantocks by Mr. C. E. J. Esdaile's father, and this was confirmed by Lord Ebrington.\*

\* The Rev. W. Greswell has shown in a letter to *The Somerset County Gazette*, dated August 7th, 1897, that there were red deer on the Quantocks in early times. He writes, "Leland travelled through the Quantock country on one of his journeys (1538-40). Coming to Nether Stowey, he notices that here was a goodly manor house of the Lord Audley, who had a park of redde deere and another of fallow."

Mr. Greswell also brings forward evidence to prove that a large portion of this part of Somerset was accounted "forest" from Domesday downwards.—ED.



Speaking of Admiral Blake's connection with Bridgwater, he said a large number of the Blake family from America and elsewhere often came to Plainsfield Farm to see a chimney-piece there, on which were carved the letters "E. B."; but the date 1668 or 1663 showed they were placed there long after the Admiral's death. What was the meaning of the initials would be an interesting question to solve. Then, again, in Over Stowey Church, in front of the Communion table, there was the tombstone of "Humphrey Blake, clothier, died 1619," while they knew that Humphrey Blake, the Admiral's father, lived to a later date. He had known the clergy a good deal worried by descendants of the Blake family for particulars as to the relations of the Admiral. One, after getting a copy of the register, wrote to know if any of the family had been omitted, and the clergyman wrote back saying he had forgotten to mention one Edward Blake, who was put in the stocks.

An interesting question which had come rather prominently before them of late years was the great part which ladies took in holding property in that neighbourhood. As to his own position he had himself bought a few farms, but the great mass of the Quantock Lodge estate belonged to his wife. Then close by at Brymore they all remembered the fact of Miss Hales leaving that property to Mr. Bouverie's grandfather; while the large estate of Fairfield descended to Sir Peregrine Acland's daughter. Further on there was Crowcombe Park, which belonged to the wife of Mr. Trollope; and next there was Mrs. Bisset, of Bagborough, and long might she continue to enjoy the beautiful property which she owned. A little further on was the Tetton property, which came to the Earl of Carnarvon's family by marriage with one of the Aclands, and which had previously come to the latter by marriage with the Dykes. Then there was the Portman property, which came to the Berkeley family by a marriage with the heiress of the Portmans. Pixton Park also came to

Lord Carnarvon through marriage with an Acland. Further west they met with the extraordinary fact of the Dunster Castle estate having been sold only once since the Conquest, and then by a woman to a woman. It was given to Lord de Mohun by William the Conqueror. One of the Lords de Mohun was known as Earl of Somerset, and the wife of a later owner, who had great influence over him, got him to leave the property to the Archbishop of Canterbury and others, who were to do with it as Lady Mohun desired. She desired them to make the property over to her, and then, retaining the use of it to herself for life, she sold it for a sum of money to Lady Elizabeth Luttrell, who had three daughters—the Duchess of York, the Countess of Salisbury, and Lady Strange of Knockyn. The Duchess of York and the Countess of Salisbury died without issue, and Lady Strange, of Knockyn, carried on the line. On the death of Lady de Mohun legal proceedings were taken, and an almost unprecedented thing occurred, for the House of Commons petitioned the Crown that it should be tried at bar. This was probably claimed on account of the influence of the Duchess of York, one of the claimants. The trial was ordered to take place at Ilchester, but he knew no record of the result, although the property remained with Lady Elizabeth's son. He (Mr. Stanley) was directly descended from Lord and Lady Strange, of Knockyn, and it was rather interesting to find himself settled in Somerset for twenty-five years, and then after all to find himself to be a Somerset man. There were other properties held in the same way. Halswell, for instance, came to the present worthy owners through an heiress; while an interesting fact was that the first document he ever signed as a Somerset magistrate was one brought to him by Mrs. Farthing, who was churchwarden of Dodington.

The MAYOR proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Stanley for the very able and attractive address he had given them on that occasion. He was sure they must have listened to it

with a vast amount of interest and pleasure. He (the Mayor) hoped time would enable them to visit the quarries alluded to by Mr. Stanley, for they were a very instructive and interesting feature of the neighbourhood.

The Right Hon. J. W. MELLOR, Q.C., M.P., seconded. He said there was no one better qualified than Mr. Stanley to preside over them. He (Mr. Mellor) had known Mr. Stanley for many years, but that gentleman had never previously told him that he was of Somerset descent. He was very glad indeed to hear that Mr. Stanley was a Somerset man, as that would give additional interest in the proceedings. The vote was adopted with acclamation.

The CHAIRMAN briefly acknowledged the compliment, and this closed the meeting.

The members then attended a

### **Luncheon,**

hospitably given to the Society by the Mayor of Bridgwater (Mr. M. C. Else).

### **St. Mary's Church, Bridgwater.**

After luncheon, the company paid a visit to St. Mary's Church, an interesting description of which was given by Mr. EDMUND BUCKLE. He said it was quite impossible to look at the church with any attention at all without feeling what an important place Bridgwater was in olden times. The church was really larger than it gave one the impression of being, and he believed that it seated something like 1,300 people. It was not surprising that Bridgwater should require a church of that size now, but it was really suprising that as far back as they could go there appeared to have been as large a church as the present one. There was nothing of Norman work left; but the foundations of the Early English building extended all the way round the north aisle, and along the end of the north transept. That appeared to make it plain that

in the thirteenth century there was a cruciform church, with aisles and nave of the same width as the existing ones. Mr. BUCKLE then pointed out the great width of the building across the nave and aisles, and remarked that in the thirteenth century it would have been unusual to find so wide a church. In the time of King John there was founded a hospital of Augustinian Canons in Bridgwater, and the church was appropriated to these canons, who served it partly themselves and partly by a secular chaplain. The only serious additions to the size of the church made since the thirteenth century, appeared to be the filling out of the space between the transepts and the north and south porches, and additions at the east end. The two side chapels were probably added later, and the chancel carried at least one bay further east than it was at the time of that Early English church. Mr. BUCKLE pointed out the early niches for monuments in the north aisle wall and also the piece of thirteenth century work in the north door, which, however, was not *in situ*. The tracery between the lintel and the arch marked the date at which this doorway was rebuilt in its present position in the outer wall of the north porch. Very little alteration had taken place in the general appearance of the church, except as regarded the removal of the cross arches from the centre of the church and the raising of the nave. The windows were of all sorts of dates. There were Geometrical windows, Decorated windows, and windows with reticulated tracery. In the north aisle they found the internal arch of the old windows remaining, whilst the windows themselves had Perpendicular tracery inserted all through. The arches of the Perpendicular arcade varied a great deal in width, and the capital of one pair of pillars dropped down quite a foot below the others. Another remarkable fact was that the clerestory windows were not over the arches but over the pillars. The old rood screen was now utilised as side-choir screens, and a remarkable thing was that in olden time there was in front of the rood screen another screen some six or



eight feet forward. This was a Jacobean screen, which now formed the front of the Corporation pew, and the mayor and corporation seemed to have been provided with stalls, placed between the two screens. Altogether the church must have been wonderfully rich in carved work, because the whole of the front of the stall work in the chancel was filled out with panels of ancient carved work. The pulpit was a pretty one, of Perpendicular date, and formerly stood against one of the pillars down the nave. Mr. BUCKLE spoke of the arrangement of the squint from the north porch. The view of the high altar from this porch was obtained by a four-light window opening from the porch into the church, a squint through the west wall of the transept (which wall has, in 1849, been replaced by an arcade), and another squint through the pier of the chancel arch. The purpose of these squints was generally supposed to be to provide for lepers. With regard to the furniture the most conspicuous thing was the picture presented to the church by Mr. Anne Poulet, who was christened Anne after Queen Anne, and was at that time member for Bridgwater. Beyond that fact no history of the picture was known, but it was generally ascribed to an Italian artist, Annibale Caracci, of Bologna. There were at one time at least seven altars in the church, as had been discovered by Mr. Weaver.\* These were the High altar, Trinity altar, Our Lady's altar, St. George's altar, the Rood altar, St. Katharine's altar, and St. Soday's altar, and there appeared also to have been an altar to St. Erasmus. There was ample room for seven altars, and there might very well have been more. There were three chantries—of St. George, Our Lady, and the Holy Trinity, and there were seven guilds in connection with the church. All these things pointed to the great richness and importance of the town. The small arch leading into the tower showed that at the time it was built there was no clerestory. The tower was a massive building, consisting almost solely of rubble

\* See "Downside Review," December, 1896.



stone work, without any free-stone where it could be avoided. Towers of this character prevail in West Somerset and part of Devon. The tower in contrast to the church showed poverty, but it had really a remarkable spire, being a great deal taller than the tower on which it stood, and it gave an individual character to the appearance of the building.

Lieut.-Col. BRAMBLE spoke of the resemblance between St. Mary's tower and the tower of old Bedminster church, now pulled down. As to the roof it was of a style peculiar to Somerset, which had got to be known as Somerset waggon roof. There they had a Somerset waggon roof as a nucleus and a great deal besides.

The Rev. J. E. ODGERS spoke of the ceremonies which formerly took place in the church between Good Friday and Easter day. A sepulchre was set up in the church, and watchers were appointed until the Sunday, when a curtain was drawn back revealing the figure of the rising Saviour.

Mr. CHARLES MAJOR and Dr. WINTERBOTHAM also spoke. The latter dissented from the view of Mr. Buckle that the altar piece belonged to the Italian school. He considered it was a specimen of the Flemish school. It was said to have been taken from a privateer, and it had been inspected and valued by Sir Joshua Reynolds.

It was mentioned that the Corporation annually insured the picture for £10,000.

The Rev. H. BIRCHAM, vicar, said that the registers were very interesting indeed, and Mr. Lockyer, the Parish Clerk, would have great pleasure in showing them the Communion plate as well. The chancel, he added, did not belong to the Corporation, they were only lay rectors. With regard to the picture he did not believe that that belonged to them either. It had been there many years, and he doubted their having the slightest power over it, although he did not want to reopen the question.

The Rev. F. W. WEAVER said the churchwardens' accounts,

which belonged to the Corporation, went back to 1368, and were some of the most interesting in the West of England.

### **Admiral Blake's House.**

The party next wended their way to Blake Street, to inspect what is acknowledged to have been the birth-place of the famous Admiral Blake. For some years past it has been the residence of Miss Parker, niece of the late Mr. George Parker, author of a brief history of Bridgwater, and other works, who purchased the property in question. Mr. Parker, the present owner (a nephew of the deceased gentleman), received the party on their arrival and escorted them through some rooms, and into a garden at the rear, adjacent to what is locally known as "mill tail," and referred to as such in Domesday book. It was admitted that the premises had undergone very extensive alterations, but there were traces of ancient remains, and in particular Mr. Parker pointed out those of an old window and fireplace which undoubtedly constituted a portion of the original building.

### **The Castle.**

The party next directed their steps to the Western Quay, and here they were shown the only remaining traces of Bridgwater Castle, consisting of a massive stone archway, formerly a portion of an old water gate, this being situate at the entrance of some bonded cellars in the vicinity of the Custom House. This was viewed with a good deal of interest, and although no public observations were offered thereon, several members indulged in a retrospect of recorded events connected with the siege of Bridgwater and its heroic defence, and expressed surprise that the castle had been so completely dismantled that all other traces of it had disappeared.

### Afternoon Meeting.

At 4.30 the members again assembled in the Town Hall, at a meeting at which papers on local subjects were read and discussions took place. Mr. E. J. STANLEY, M.P., again presided.

The PRESIDENT first called upon the Rev. F. W. Weaver, M.A., to make a statement with regard to the index to Collinson's History of Somerset.

The Rev. F. W. WEAVER said the Society was bringing out in a form uniform with Collinson's History an elaborate index to the whole of the three volumes. The index had now reached the letter M, and as Editor, he had received valuable help from the Rev. E. H. Bates. Those who used the index would find it valuable when they wished to see what Collinson really said. He hoped that those who had not subscribed would give their names to Mr. Bidgood. The price of the work was fifteen shillings, and he hoped it would soon be ready.

Mr. HOBHOUSE said they were indebted to the two gentlemen who had undertaken the work, and appreciation of their efforts should be shown by purchasing the work.

Mr. C. H. BOTHAMLEY read a paper on a Photographic Survey of the County of Somerset (*see* Part II).

Mr. HOBHOUSE thought it was a very proper object for the Society to take up, but the proper mode of procedure would be to refer it to the Executive Committee, to see if they would take it up in conjunction with certain other bodies, and whether it would be desirable for them to make a small grant to cover initial expenses. It was clear that no large grant could be made at present, but Mr. Bothamley had suggested voluntary subscribers if sufficient could be found to set the ball rolling. He would like to know the extent of Mr. Bothamley's proposition before referring it to the Committee to consider.

Mr. WINTERBOTHAM said if the Society did not see its

way to granting any large sum of money, it could give an expression of opinion that the suggestions thrown out by Mr. Bothamley were worthy of consideration. They had not the funds to make themselves a society for the purpose of protecting national monuments, great and small, in Somerset, but the idea that they could keep a faithful representation of what they had before the time of destruction came was one within their grasp and means, and although the Society might not feel themselves able to contribute largely, their protection thrown over the idea would enable it to advance, and many of them would be glad to form a subsidiary society which would aid such matters.

The Rev. F. W. WEAVER said there was a valuable collection of photographs of old churches taken by Mr. Gillo, formerly of Bridgwater, in existence, but they were in possession of a certain firm, which, possibly, would part with them to the Society for a reasonable sum.

The Rev. J. WORTHINGTON said it was entirely a question of finance, but if common action were undertaken he felt sure the Committee and members would support the matter right heartily.

Mr. BOTHAMLEY did not anticipate that the expenses would be very large. Mr. Hobhouse wished to know the extent of his proposition. His suggestion was to first obtain photographs of domestic objects which were liable to disappear, and afterwards of those subjects which were less liable to alteration.

The Rev. J. E. ODGERS then read a paper on "The Bridgwater Academy, 1688-1748."

### **The Evening Meeting.**

There was a large gathering at eight o'clock, in the Town Hall, to listen to a paper by Professor MONTAGU BURROWS, R.N. (Chichele Professor of Modern History in the University of Oxford, and Fellow of All Souls' College), entitled "The Life and Times of Robert Blake" (*see Part II*).

The PRESIDENT proposed a vote of thanks to Professor Burrows for his paper.

Mr. W. L. WINTERBOTHAM followed with a paper on "Blake's Charities." He said the few notes he had been able to make did not mean a history of "Blake's Charity," but he rather wanted to point out (while Professor Burrows had given them in his own eloquent language what the Empire owed to Blake), by just giving them a few items from Blake's will, what he had done for Bridgwater and its neighbourhood. He did not regard this subject as important as that which Prof. Burrows had laid before them, for after all it was a small thing what a man did for his successors, but it was a great thing what a man did for the nation. He wished to be an advocate for a memorial of Blake, whether his likeness was that of a saint or of a sinner. A memorial that would bring to their minds the fact that Blake was born, and lived in this place. Although in obtaining a statue they would wish to go as near the truth as possible, the ideal did not lie altogether in the value of the truth, but in what the man did and what he was to those who were living at the present day. What he had to say of the past and the connection of Blake with them was to show how humbly he was one of them; how his people lived there because in this world their neighbour was much more their friend than those who lived at a distance. They had a close connection with those in their own parish, their own county, their own country, and although they did not go to the extent that if a man was not born in the parish they would have nothing to do with him, they felt more kindly to those connected with them. Mr. Winterbotham alluded to the will of Robert Blake (grandfather of the great Admiral), who left in 1592 lands at Tuxwell, in Radlett, to William, and to his son Humphrey lands at Puriton and Crandon. Humphrey Blake (father) left to the Cathedral church at Wells 5s.; to Bridgwater church, 40s.; to Pawlett church, 20s.; and to the poor of Bridgwater, £5. The manor of Puriton and Crandon



was left to the son Robert, and silver salts, silver bowls, and a dozen of silver spoons with lions' heads. His chattel lease of lands in Puriton and Huntspill were left to the son William, towards his education and charges at Oxford; reversion and interest on lands in the manor of Hamp to his son Benjamin; the dwelling-house and garden, which the Society had visited that day in Blake Street, to his sons Robert and Humphrey. Extracts from the wills of William Blake (Bridgwater) and Margaret Blake (grandmother), dated respectively 1667 and 1599, showed that the former left £100 to the poor of Bridgwater, whilst the latter left £10 yearly for the poor, also 20s. at her burial for the same cause. Various gifts of goods were made to the almshouses of Bridgwater, and to the almshouses of Stogursey 5s., to the poor of Spaxton, 10s., the will also stating, "My late husband, Robert Blake, at his death left £240 in the hands of Richard Hodges and one Leonard Crosse, in trust, to pay £20 yearly for my maintenance, and also appointed that the said £240 should be paid to the Mayor, Aldermen, etc., of Bridgwater, to be employed by them to make a yearly gain of £20, to be distributed after my decease as follows: £16 yearly to the poor, and the other £4 for the repairs of the highways near Bridgwater, my son Humphrey (to whom the same is now assured) to see that this is performed."

By the will of Admiral Robert Blake, dated 1655, he left to the town of Bridgwater £100 to be distributed amongst the poor thereof at the discretion of Humphrey Blake, his brother, and of the Mayor for the time being. To the town of Taunton he also left £100; to his brother Humphrey the manor of Taunton and Crandon; to his brother Benjamin his dwelling-house in St. Mary Street, and the other house adjoining and eleven acres of land in the village of Hamp; and to the widow Owen, of Bridgwater, the relict of Mr. Owen, minister, he gave £10. Mr. Winterbotham also read an interesting letter which he had discovered written for the trustees of Blake's

charity to a descendant on February 2nd, 1736, stating that they observed by the writings there was left £100 to be laid out in land for the use of the poor, and that they could not find above £82 10s. laid out, so they desired the gentleman written to to be pleased to let them know to which of the trustees the remaining part of the hundred pounds was paid. It would be interesting to know where the difference between the £82 and £100 went. It seemed from all these wills that Admiral Blake and his family were persons who, by some means, acquired considerable wealth, and that when they died they did not forget their native town. Mr. Winterbotham concluded a highly interesting paper by again expressing a hope that in a town like that they might soon have a memorial of the great admiral. It was not every town that could boast of having a townsman like Admiral Blake, and he thought they would not only be commemorating the life and death of a great man, but would be adding to the welfare of their citizens in the future by putting up in the town an Admiral Blake statue.

The PRESIDENT also, on behalf of the audience, thanked Mr. Winterbotham for his interesting paper.

The Rev. E. H. BATES next read a paper of considerable interest on "An Inventory of Church Plate in South-East Somerset" (*see* Part II).

### **Thursday's Proceedings.**

On Thursday the members of the Society had a tour through the district west of Bridgwater. The party, numbering about 150, left the "Clarence Hotel" in brakes and carriages at about 10.30, and drove direct to Stogursey. A visit was first paid to

### **Stoke Courcy Church**

which is a fine one and possesses many interesting features which were explained to the members by Mr. E. BUCKLE. He said it

was a splendid example of Norman work, the tower arches being examples of the earlier Norman period and the chancel arcades of the later. There was every indication that the very large and handsome nave was (in its general outline) of the same date as the cross arches; for the west doorway was also of Norman date and of the same character as these four central arches, and the great width of the arch across the nave clearly implied that the nave must always have been as wide as it now is. In the case of many Norman central towers the nave arch was very small and narrow, with the result that the chancel was completely shut off from the nave. Here, however, exactly the contrary was the case. They would notice that while the arches across the nave were of this great width, those across the transept were decidedly narrow, and the form of the tower above was consequently very oblong. On the outside this irregularity in the plan of the tower was decidedly conspicuous. He then pointed out the varying shapes of the arches; those across the transepts being stilted, while the chancel arch was struck from below the level of the capitals, and only the nave arch was a true semi-circle. This was the way Norman builders had of getting over the difficulty of arching spaces of different widths; they either started the arch above or below the capital. The carved capitals of the four arches were worthy of attention. They were unusual examples of great decoration, and were founded upon a reminiscence of Roman Corinthian capitals. All this work must be put down to the earlier part of the Norman period, viz., before 1100, and the font was also of this early date. Then came a great change, William de Falaise gave the church to the Benedictine Abbey of Lonley, in Normandy, and they founded an alien priory here. The choir of the church was then enlarged by the addition of the side aisles, which were examples of the work of the twelfth century. There were two fine arcades on each side of the chancel, and they were quite of the latest period of Norman work, or rather, perhaps, of transitional character. On the south side of the

chancel there was a Norman window, which, however, was not in its original position, but was moved at the time of the restoration. While the restoration was in progress, the east wall was evidently entirely taken down and rebuilt, for it was all modern. The bases of the side arcades were at a very high level. He drew attention to the extraordinary number of steps in the church leading from the nave to the chancel, and from the chancel to the altar, and remarked that the arrangement of the floor of the transept was clearly not what was intended ; it was now too high and hid the bases of the pillars. After passing from the Norman work there was nothing of interest, until the Perpendicular period. The churchwardens' accounts, dating back to the reigns of Henry VII and Henry VIII were of great interest, because they showed that there was about that time much work being done to the church, the materials being brought from Bristol, landed at Combrich, and carted to Stoke Courcy. Practically all the windows of the church were of the Perpendicular period. He next alluded to the peculiar position of the rood-loft door, some feet west of the tower arch, and to a curious arch near, intended as a recess for a tomb or perhaps to lead to a small chapel not now existing. The bench-ends, in the centre of the nave, were principally of the sixteenth century and of English character, but with some Flemish intermixture. The spire was an uncommon feature for a church in this district. Under the south arcade of the chancel, he pointed out a monument of Sir William Verney, of Fairfield, of the time of Henry VI, the bases of which had a series of niches all round, containing figures, and in the cornice over coats of arms of himself, his mother (Brent), and his wife (Broughton)—the coat of arms of the Verneys being three ferns, and the crest a panache of ferns. The plate was well worth looking at and was dated 1712. Collinson stated that there was a painting of Christ and the Twelve Apostles in the north aisle, and that the north aisle was dedicated to St. Erasmus. And from Mr. Weaver's

*Wills* it appeared that there were services of the B.V.M. and St. Anne, and that the high altar was being painted and gilded in the years 1533-1535.

The Vicar, the Rev. F. MEADE KING, in the course of a few observations, called attention to the "cable" band around the font and to a curious stone vessel supposed to be an alms box.

The company afterwards inspected the old registers of the church and the old communion plate.

From the church the party wended its way to

### **Stoke Courcy Castle**

the only entrance to which was through the kitchen of the caretaker's house. As very few of the company knew anything of the history of the castle, Mr. BUCKLE was again requested to make a few explanatory remarks. He said he knew very little of the castle himself, but it was stated to have been fortified by one Falk de Brent in Henry III's time, and it was destroyed by Lord Bonville in the time of Henry VI. Judging from what remained the building seemed to belong to Henry III's time, or the Edwardian period. It consisted now of nothing whatever but the moat and a roughly circular wall with bases of towers at intervals. If it ever was a habitable dwelling-house there was no trace now in existence of the domestic buildings. They came in by the front entrance to the castle over a small bridge, which had evidently replaced the old drawbridge. It did not appear to him to have ever been a castle lived in by a great man to any extent, because if they looked at the small size of the enclosure they would perceive that if they had a number of troops there as well as a dwelling-house it would render the house very uncomfortable indeed. In conclusion Mr. BUCKLE alluded to the spring under an arch in the village, from which even to this day the inhabitants procured their water supply.



Stoke Courcy, or Stogursey as it is now better known, was very soon left in the rear, the party proceeding to

### **Dodington Manor House,**

an interesting old residence now in the occupation of Mr. Alfred Berry, who had very kindly given the party permission to inspect the place, which, needless to remark, was taken full advantage of. Here again, Mr. BUCKLE's services were requisitioned. He remarked that first thing that struck them about the house was the fact that they approached it through the farm yard. At the top of the farmyard there was another small courtyard at a higher level, forming a sort of terrace, which enabled the master of the house to keep an eye on the farm. The principal feature of the inside of the house was the small but interesting hall, complete with screens and gallery in spite of its tiny size. The roof was varied to some extent from the ordinary hall roof of the fifteenth century. There was a tendency for all the beams to be cut to wavy lines. To a large extent this was due to the natural curvature of the wood, the carpenter having cut his timber from bent branches; but in other cases a wavy outline had been deliberately given to timber cut from straight logs. The panels of the roof were all of different shapes, the carpenter having worked according to the shape of the timber to hand. The windows were very curious, having Elizabethan mouldings inside and Gothic outside. The mantelpiece, which bore the date 1581, was an elaborate piece of stone work, but of the crudest possible class, and was evidently the work of some uninstructed country mason. The fireplace was very like some they found further west: there was one at Dunster of very much the same crude style of work. Others, however, were carried out in plaster and not in stone. A small arch led to the oriel, which formed a quiet room, practically distinct from the hall, a private parlour for the master of the house. The withdrawing room at the end of the hall contained some interesting plaster work, with the Dodington arms worked in

at intervals. It was of the sixteenth century, or may be a little later, but it was a distinctly rough piece of work, giving one the same idea of the country workman as the rest of the work throughout the building.

Lieut.-Col. BRAMBLE drew attention to the coat of arms over the mantelpiece of the hall, and remarked that the third coat was that of the Trivett family, which were marked on the old bridge in Bridgwater, which was to a great extent built by them.

### Nether Stowey Castle.

The next move was to Nether Stowey to inspect the site of Stowey Castle, known as Castle Hill. Here the Rev. W. H. P. GRESWELL, Rector of Dodington, read a paper in which he stated that the position of Stowey Castle in former days must have been a strong one naturally, far stronger than the site of Stoke Courcy Castle. In vol. viii of the *Proceedings* of the Society, the Rev. F. Warre considered that this mound was one of a line of British earthworks held by the Dumnonii. He ranked it with Rowborough, in the parish of Broomfield, connected by beacon on Cothelstone with the earthwork on Norton Fitzwarren, commanding the Tone, and so on with the strong fortress on Castle Neroche. Castle Hill was the most northerly of them all and overlooked the Parret.

It may be instructive, therefore, to look out for any of the old features of a British earthwork existing here before the mound was occupied by a Norman stronghold.

In 1858 the Secretary of the Society announced that he had discovered the outlines of a Roman Camp on the Quantocks, not far from Ely Green, of which, however, the brief time allowed to the members for their drive, precluded a closer examination.

To the west lies the height of Danesbarrow, or Dousborough, no doubt, a Belgic fortress originally, and subsequently held by the Romans.

Just here, therefore, at the northern side of the Quantocks we get two or three distinct strongholds of very early date. It was somewhere near here that a subsidiary Roman road came over the Quantocks, and united the Vale of Taunton Dean with the mouth of the Parret and Caerleon on the Welsh coast higher up.

The exact point where this old road and trackway ascended the Quantocks is probably not far off the site of Stowey Castle. It can be traced very clearly from Cannington Park westwards, past Oakley Oak, and came up at the entrance of Ramscombe, near the chapel of Adscombe.

Thus we may possibly see the *raison d'être* in the beginning of Nether Stowey Castle—a stronghold commanding a line of communication.

It may have taken the place of Danesborough, as that was chiefly a *castra æstiva* of the Romans.

It is not recorded when the Norman stronghold arose. It would appear from Eyton (*Somerset Domesday*, vol. ii, p. 35) that *Alured de Hispania* succeeded to one portion of Stowey, *Estalweia* (in the Hundred of Williton), which was Count Harold's (Earl of Wessex) T.R.E., in Saxon times. Stowey Castle, I imagine, was this portion. The other portion belonged to Dodo de Cory, a Saxon, which I take it was Dodington, especially as I find that, in 1335, the Chapel of Dodington is described as being in the parish of Nether-Staweye, and paying 2s. to Mynchin Buckland Priory (*Som. Arch. Proceedings*, vol. x, p. 24).

Dodington does not appear in Domesday. Collinson says that Stowey belonged collectively to Ralph de Pomeri, but if we look at Eyton's comparative list and see who are the Saxon owners, Count Harold's portion, held as it was "in dominio," by Alured de Hispania, is more likely to have included the important stronghold of Stowey Castle. This is a point archæology may settle. Although Eyton is decisive enough (vol. i, p. 65) and says that Nether Stowey was the *caput* of

Alured's barony. Collinson fails, says Eyton, through not collating Domesday and the Gheld Inquisition, to find the Domesday type of Alured de Hispania's manor of Nether Stowey. I find that Collinson has copied the Palmer MSS.

Eyton says that the male line of Alured de Hispania vanished in an heiress, but the succession is not known for certain. She is called *Isabella*, and married Robert de Candos, described as a Norman, who came over with William the Conqueror.

II.—With the de Candos *régime* we come to more certain history.

From Nether Stowey, de Candos sets out upon his Welsh conquest at Caerleon, where he founds the alien priory of Gold Clive, in Monmouthshire. He died in 1120. We may picture from here the course of conquest, following the old route to Cannington parish, to the Parret, and thence to Caerleon, perhaps by boat.

This Welsh conquest from West Somerset is worth noting, as the Irish conquest from Stoke Courcy.

III.—The de Candos family ended very shortly in an heiress, Maude de Candos, wife, in 1166, of Philip de Columbers.

In King Henry II's reign (Collins *Peerage*, vol. viii, p. 36) the charter of Philip de Columbers, still extant in the Red Book of the Exchequer, shows that he held ten knight's fees, Nether Stowey being the head of the barony. Honibere was held under it, also Woolavington, Puriton, and Monksilver.

The Columbers family continued at Nether Stowey Castle for several generations, no fewer than four of them being called Philip. They formed connections with the Stawels, of Cothelstone, and the Vernais, of Fairfield, and many others.

In the Palmer MSS., I find that Fairfield was anciently held of the Castle of Stowey, and was originally part of the lordship of Honibere. In the same MSS., I find that the first Philip de Columbers, son of Maud de Candos, granted Fairfield to William Russell.

IV.—The fourth change is when Alicia de Columbers dies (17 Edw. III, 1334), and James Lord Audley, her nephew, succeeds. He is son of James Lord Audley and Joan her sister. These Audleys, or Touchets, were Norman by extraction, and a North Country family, from Boglatton, in Cheshire. The Audleys held also Heleigh Castle, in Staffordshire, and Red Castle in Shropshire.

The member of the family who is locally most interesting, who lived at Nether Stowey, was Sir James Touchet, in Henry VII's reign, who led the Cornish insurgents in 1497.

Mr. Palmer in his MSS., says that the particulars of the life of this Lord Audley deserve a book in themselves. He resided chiefly at Stowey, and at the time of the Cornish insurrection was enlarging a manor house at the place where the present Court House stands.

The same authority would appear to have been indebted to Leland, who, in his *Itinerary* (1540-1542), wrote "The Lord Audeley that rebelled in Henry the VII's time, began great foundations of stone work to the enlargement of his house, the which are yet to be seen half on perfect."

Leland says "Stowey a poor village standeth in a Botome among hilles. Here is a goodly manor place of the Lord Audleys standing exceeding pleasantly for goodly pasture and having by it a Park of redde deer and another of falow, and a fair brooke serving all the offices of the manor place." This would evidently be the present Court House.

I think somehow that both these extracts refer to the Manor House.\*

(\*) In vol. xxv of *Som. Arch. Proceedings* (1880) Mr. Batten, in his account of Henry VII in Somerset, gives several notices of the Insurrection, and of Lord Audley.

It is a surmise of Mr. Batten, that the names of the King's councillors, Cardinal Morton, Reginald Bray, were furnished to the Cornishmen by Lord Audley.

The petitioners marched through Devon and Taunton, and thence to Wells, where they were headed by Lord Audley, *who was building his mansion at Nether Stowey* at the time they set out.

Lord Audley was cousin of Sir Hugh Luttrell of Dunster Castle, and brother-in-law of Lord Daubeny. The battle took place at Blackheath, 17th June, 1497. The King executed Lord Audley, Flamanx, and Michael Joseph, the smith.



But why or when was the Castle dismantled? I do not think that it was because of the Cornish Insurrection, *i.e.*, before 1500, as some would suppose.

Would not Leland have mentioned the Castle if it had been standing? Why only the Manor House? Collinson thinks that it was garrisoned here for Charles I, in the Parliamentary War. I have not been able to find, as yet, any notices of the dismantling. Much of the stone at the Court appears to have been brought from the Castle Hill. Some of the stones in the arches seem too heavy for their object.\*

*Local traditions and names.*—Old men have told me that “they beat down the Castle from Dowsboro, and then the Stowey men beat down Stoke Courcy Castle.” Stoke Courcy Castle was finally destroyed by Lord Bonville in Henry VI’s reign, for its lawlessness.

Could Stowey Castle have suffered the same fate? as local tradition connects the two together. As is usual with ancient encampments and hills, old people have told me that as children they used to be frightened at the giants under Castle Hill mound. Figures of men would appear and threaten them with their hands.

“Hack Lane” is the lane on the west of Castle Hill.

“Stow Here pat” is on the Quantocks.

“Cochley Lane” is on the south side of Castle Hill.

“Butcher’s Lane,” just under Castle Hill, on the north side. On the south side “Portrey Mead.” Perhaps something to do with the porta or portreeve, and the entrance.

(\*) In Archbold’s Religious Houses the following interesting fact appears that, in 1538, John Dycensen, rector of Holford, goes down to Athelney from my master, the Lord Audley, as a messenger or commissioner about the surrender.

From the Audleys the property descends in a very mutilated condition to several proprietors. The last Audley lived here in James I’s reign. One of the families who inherited the Castle and “Red Deer Park,” and the farm of “Row-bear” was the Walkers, from 20 Henry VIII. He was a Staffordshire man. and probably obtained it through the Audleys. Of a member of this family Mr. Palmer says, “Edward Walker, third son to Edward and Barbara Tothall, was bred in the family of the Earl of Arundell, Earl Marshall of England,” and gives an account of the Walker family (1639). Related to *Bourne* family of Gotherley in beginning of eighteenth century (1730-40).

Close by was an old well, under a willow, at the turn of the road, where people used to wash their eyes. Also they fetched water thence. It was filled up within living memory, so old men say; but fifty yards nearer the mount, and near "Stakes Barton," the well has appeared again. The old man who lived at Castle Hill Cottage had a blind wife, over eighty, and she used to bathe her eyes in the water.

There is another well in the grounds of Castle Hill House, also Blind Well just to the east, all flowing north.

Down in Nether Stowey there is still "The Parks," in Mr. Govett's farm, to mark the old park, and also a "Deerleap," distinctly observable at intervals. It runs from the Court House westward, below Pinnacle Hill, and adjoins the glebe.

Just opposite is Tom Poole's farm, and the land below belongs to a Mr. Lansdown.

Yonder, on the Quantocks, are several hundred acres of "Customs," which have never paid rate or tax and on which the Stowey poor have privileges.

The parish boundaries are peculiar, just here the boundary line runs up to the cottage. The Castle stood in Nether Stowey, and, historically, Nether and Over Stowey are distinct.

Below is "Bincombe Tything" in two Hundreds, Williton and Cannington, and in two parishes, Over and Nether Stowey.

Close by was a bull-baiting arena. The Castle mound was used as a kind of amphitheatre when the local champions at fisticuffs met, the fame of whose encounters remain.

The ground plan of the Castle shows a small rectangular keep. Not many years ago the late Sir Peregrine Acland had the foundations cleared. The outside walls were six feet six inches in thickness, but the material has been constantly removed. There appeared to be an entrance on the north side, where it was supposed the church or chapel of St. Michael stood. The whole site is too small to be a residentiary castle. The Court House with the Church close by and the village Pound adjoining it, and the two parks stretching round it on

all sides, as Leland saw it, was probably always the dwelling-house of the chief family.

*An error.*—Camden writes “At Stowey, on the side of a hill above the church, rises a large spring which is never dry, which water, at about forty yards from its source, as it runs through the village, encrusts with stone whatever it meets with, but has no such effect at the source, nor within twenty yards of it.

Probably at Stowey in Chew Magna.

[Collinson, ii, 110, mentions this spring under Stowey in the Hundred of Chew.—Ed.]

The party next proceeded to

**1400941**

### **Quantock Lodge,**

where the newly-elected president, Mr. E. J. STANLEY, M.P., most hospitably entertained them to luncheon, and some considerable time was spent in inspecting the interior of the fine mansion with its magnificent library, paintings, and statuary.

The first place visited after luncheon was

### **Sparton Church,**

and here Mr. BUCKLE again acted as spokesman for the party. The first thing to which he drew the attention of the company was the east window, which was a specimen of quite the earliest Geometrical tracery, in fact of the very beginning of tracery of any kind. The only other fragment in the church which was of an earlier date than the Perpendicular period, was the little window facing the south entrance. That window was only half the height of the other two on that side of the church, and if they went to the outside they would see there was a clearly marked line where the character of the masonry entirely changed. At an early period the wall of the

church was only as high as the top of that little window ; and it was at a subsequent period, in the 15th or 16th century, that the walls were raised to their present height, and this window was blocked up ; but in recent times it had been opened again. Work was going on here in 1530 [*see Wells Wills*] and all else in the church was of the Perpendicular date to which the greater part of that Somersetshire architecture belonged. In that part of the country they had got out of the range of freestone. There was no proper freestone to be found in this neighbourhood, although there was a great quantity in other parts of the county. The chancel arch was built of sandstone from the Quantocks, and as sandstone did not lend itself to elaborate work, like freestone, they always found in the sandstone country work of a rougher character. In the chancel there was a rather curious little arcade with the carving carried round the bell of the cap, which was not at all usual in this county, although it was quite common farther west. The people of Spaxton did, however, think it worth while to import some freestone for the tracery of the windows, the parapets and the buttress slopes. The porch on the south side of the church, being carried to the full height of the aisle, added dignity to that side of the church. The tower was one of the rough class he was speaking of at Bridgewater, containing no freestone which it was possible to avoid. The majority of the windows of the tower were made of sandstone, and the general effect was a rugged mass carried up to a considerable height, which, however, was distinctly imposing on account of its simplicity and the excellence of its outline. Cannington was a tower of the same kind with great height, but no detail, and the tower of Stogursey, leaving out the spire, was a perfectly plain oblong mass, but with its character to some extent altered in its external appearance on account of the fact that it was plastered all over. But he took it that the towers of West Somerset were generally plastered over, and that it was a purely modern idea to show the rough sandstone.

Coming to the fittings of the church, which were perhaps in some respects the most interesting feature there, there was a great deal of oak carving. Some of the panels of the pulpit were of a distinctly English character of design, but the bench ends appeared to have been put in at a good many different times. One of the bench ends bore the date 1536. The set to which this belonged had a Renaissance character with a slightly Flemish feeling. On the other hand, some of the bench ends were clearly English, and in a very different style. Then there were others, dated 1561, which were emphatically Flemish in character. On one in the nave was a portrait of a fuller at work. This was interesting on account of the shape of a tool he was using—a mallet with two handles. The fuller was generally pictured with a large two-handed club. Here, however, he was using a heavy plank, apparently of wood, with two handles, which he lifted up and stamped down upon the cloth. At a later time when machinery was introduced, the fulling was done by means of similar mallets, but of greater weight. The purpose of fulling was to draw the cloth together, the finer class of cloth requiring more fulling than the coarse. Somerset was, of course, until comparatively recent times, one of the principal places in which cloth was made, and consequently they had indications of the power of the weavers and fullers in many Somerset churches. Another remarkable piece of oak carving was the alms box at the side of the door, which was dug out of a great chunk of oak, so as to form a box, and secured with three locks in the old-fashioned manner. One of the keys was kept by the rector, and the other two each by one of the churchwardens. There was in the chancel a monument of a knight and his lady, which appeared to belong to a period at the end of the 14th century. Outside the church there was another thing of great interest, a churchyard cross, which was remarkable, inasmuch as it had a representation of the rood on both sides—a most unusual thing.



After leaving Spaxton, the party drove to

### **Blackmore Manor Farm,**

which was the next place visited, and the old domestic chapel and its surroundings, including some stone carving on the walls and a stone staircase, etc., were viewed with much interest. It was suggested that what is now requisitioned as a bedroom was formerly a pew for the use of the lord and lady of the manor, and was probably provided with a screen front, seating accommodation being provided below for neighbours during divine service.

An adjournment was then made to Brymore, where tea was most kindly provided by Mr. H. H. Pleydell Bouverie.

### **Cannington Church.**

A start was afterwards made for home, but on reaching Cannington a halt was called for the purpose of inspecting the church. Mr. BUCKLE remarked that that church was something almost unique in their part of the world. The shape of the building was quite different from that which they generally found in their parish churches. In this church there was only one single slate roof, which covered the entire building—the nave, the aisles, and the chancel. There was no external sign on the roof to show where the chancel ended or the nave began. The result was a nave of great height, but without clerestory windows. There was a series of exceedingly lofty arches on each side of the nave, and above them there was nothing but bare wall, the effect thus produced being very grand indeed. The general effect of the church was in many respects foreign. They in England, and especially in the West of England, had a tendency to keep their roofs as low as possible. In any case they rarely had a church anything approaching the height of this one. There was nothing either inside or outside to divide

the chancel from the nave, except the screen across the front of the chancel. Norton-sub-Hambdon somewhat resembled that church, for the same roof covered both nave and aisles. But in Norton church there was a distinct chancel arch, and this chancel roof was a little lower than the nave roof. There was another such church at Winsford on Exmoor, but although the same roof covered both nave and aisles, it was not of any great height, as in the present instance. Here they had, without doubt, exceeding dignity inside the church, but the slate roof on the outside gave it a somewhat poor and modern appearance, but the great height of the chancel walls was very effective externally. There was a splendid large east window and a fine window on the south of the chancel. But the church was not, of course, always like this. The church they were now looking at was a late Perpendicular church, and on the tower they could see the original roof mark which indicated the height of the earlier church. They could see from that that the side walls of the old church were little more than half the height of the present ones. The tower, they would no doubt observe, was set at a very oblique angle to the rest of the building. That of course could not be produced by accident, and a very curious thing was that the present church was made at an even more oblique angle than the former building. In the vestry they would find a fragment of a Norman arcade, showing that the Norman church which occupied that site, was not in a line with the present church, but took a direction sloping more towards the north; so that on the rebuilding the pillar got left in the vestry, about two or three feet further north than the existing line of pillars. The Norman church then was not so oblique as the present one, but even then the church was not in a direct line from the tower, which was of course later than the Norman church, and must have been deliberately set at an angle with the existing church. When the old church was taken down, and the present church built, for some reason—there must have been a reason—they

deliberately shifted the church further round, and increased the divergence between the direction of the tower and of the rest of the church. There was only one suggestion he could make as to why this should have occurred. There was now a very fine building adjoining the church, with a 17th or 18th century front, occupying the site of the old Cannington nunnery, which formerly joined on to the parish church. The churchyard did not go all round the church: the nunnery occupied the whole of the adjoining land on the north side, and abutted on the east end of the church. In the year 1138, one of the de Courcy family founded a nunnery of Benedictines there, and the church was subsequently appropriated to that nunnery. The only reason by which they could account for the obliquity of the present church, was that the nunnery wanted more room for extensions, and so caused the parish church to be shifted three feet or so further to the south. In the chapel on the north side of the church they would find a collection of iron railings which had apparently belonged to a monument of the Clifford family, which previously stood in the chancel, but which he supposed was removed to make more room. They were fine specimens of the hammered iron work of probably 150 years ago. Another point about that church of unusual interest was the series of consecration crosses. If they walked round the outside of the building, they would find, starting from the west end of the south aisle, and going round towards the east, twelve such crosses. There were probably no consecration crosses on the other side, that side being practically inaccessible, and there were none on the tower, because the tower belonged to an earlier period than the church, and when the church was newly-consecrated there was no necessity to put one on the tower. The old form of consecration involved the anointing with chrism by the Bishop of twelve crosses on the walls. In the modern Roman use the crosses were marked on the inside, but in mediæval times these crosses were often on the outside. Generally speaking, the crosses were mere scrat-

ches, with little holes bored at the four corners to hold the chrism. Here, however, the crosses were formed in pieces of freestone, about 12 inches square, and they were all floriated.

### **Friday's Proceedings.**

The members of the Society resumed their excursions on Friday, by visiting the site of the historic battle of Sedgmoor, and the churches in the neighbourhood. The party, numbering over 100, left the Royal Clarence Hotel, Bridgwater, in brakes, and a char-a-banc. At the time of starting, 9.30, the weather was rather showery, and continued so throughout the day. The first place visited was the picturesque little village of Chedzoy, and Mr. BUCKLE gave a description of

### **Chedzoy Church,**

the Rector of which, the Rev. G. R. Mullens, kindly met the party. Mr. BUCKLE said that the building was a fine specimen of the Early English style. The arcades were nice and simple examples of that style, and the south aisle was of the same date, and the porch, although it had been altered since first built, was also Early English. Over the arch were let in three blocks of stone, on one of which were the initials "R.B.," which were well known in that part of the county as being the initials of Richard Bere, the last abbot but one of Glastonbury. He died in 1524. On another stone was "R.F.," with the date 1579, which implied, he took it, the time when the porch was altered or rebuilt in its present form. On a third stone the initials "H.P." On the south side there had been from the first a very wide aisle, nearly as wide as the nave itself. On the north side there was a narrow aisle, and that aisle as they saw it now was entirely a piece of Perpendicular work. Still, it seemed that the earlier north aisle was never wider than the present one. At this early period there was a pair of transepts,



and the early half-pillars remained at the angles where the transepts joined on to the aisles. The chancel was also Early English. There used to be on the south side of the chancel a chapel, but this had been taken down. From the 13th century there had always been there a distinctly important church. There was practically nothing remaining of subsequent periods until they came to the 15th century; then the clerestory was added to the nave, and there were considerable minor alterations. The north aisle had then been built; also the tower at the west end, which had a fine arch opening to the nave, giving an impression of height to the building. They would notice that the tower was not a very lofty one, but it was highly finished, especially in the belfry storey, and here, just two or three miles from Bridgwater, they came to the freestone towers with their delicate finish. The buttresses were situated a considerable distance from the corners of the tower, as in many Devonshire towers. There were only two belfry windows instead of the usual three. In Westonzoyland they would find the tower of the church carried out on the normal Somerset lines. They would observe the perfect preservation of the nave fittings. The benches were exactly as they were put in: the width of the gangway was also worthy of notice. The pulpit was noticeable for its curious linen-pattern panels. The pulpit itself had, however, been considerably altered. Fragments of the old work of the church were to be seen in the screen, the great bulk of which, however, was modern. In the transept would be observed the Jacobean altar rails. But the most remarkable thing in the church was the embroidery. A magnificent cope was found there, which had been converted into three altar frontals. The work of this cope was of the period of about 1500, but the frontals contained a mixture of new and old work.

The frontals were shown by the rector, and were inspected with great interest.

Lt.-Col. BRAMBLE, F.S.A., Hon. Gen. Sec., made the fol-



lowing remarks:—In the north transept (Lady Chapel) lies the brass of a man in armour of the very end of the 15th or beginning of the 16th century. Mail skirt with invected taces *over*, and tuilles (?) *under*, the skirt. The latter is most unusual. The pauldrons are of two plates on the left shoulder, but of one only on the right. There are two plates above and below the genouillières or knee-pieces. The sollerets are still of the pointed shape, although they are broader than at an earlier date. The sword hangs straight down, but the dagger, on the right side, is at an acute angle with the body. The hair is worn long, as usual at this date. The head is resting on a barred helmet with the crest of a ram; “Sydenham” or “de Sydenham” of Sydenham, adjacent to the parish. Four shields of arms and an inscription are missing. I am informed that this brass was formerly in the chancel.\*

A good deal of interest was taken in the exterior buttresses of the church, which in many places were worn away and indented, and bore palpable marks as if large blades, or weapons such as scythes, had been sharpened upon the stonework. It was stated that these were the marks showing where the peasantry had sharpened their scythes previous to the battle of Sedgmoor.

The next stopping place was at

### **Westonzoyland Church,**

where the vicar, the Rev. C. M. Rogers, received the party. In driving there, the visitors passed very near to the site of the battle of Sedgmoor.

Mr. BUCKLE, in describing the church, said that whereas in Chedzoy church they had a building very largely in the Early

\* For an account of the Sydenham Family *see* Collinson iii, 86. Since the visit to the church, my colleague, the Rev. F. W. Weaver, has informed me that the will of “Richard Sidenham of Chedsey” was proved 1499, and that of “Lady Joan Sidenham” (presumably his widow) in 1501. It may fairly be assumed that this is the monument of Richard Sidenham. [P.C.C., 6 Moone, and 22 Moone].

English style, the chancel of Westonzoyland was of the Early Decorated period of architecture, and the rest of the building belonged to the Perpendicular. It was a very fine, open, large church, with a magnificent tower, as they must have observed, at the west end. One feature remarkable at Chedzoy, was also noticeable there, and that was the amount of floor space. It was very much to be regretted that in modern churches the floor was regarded merely as a place to put seats upon. The nave was on a large scale, and lofty. The two transepts were also very large. The north transept was a lofty building, so high indeed, that the clerestory window looked into the transept instead of looking into the open air. Under the lofty north window there was a recess for a monument, and in it, but out of its true place, was now lying a rough figure of a priest. On the buttresses of the south transept were the monogram R.B., and the Courtenay badge, with the Glastonbury coat in the centre of the gable. The Abbots of Glastonbury, owned the land and the parish church. It was commonly said that they did nothing to help the parishioners, but simply confined themselves strictly to what was required of them in keeping up the chancels ; but in that church they had an example showing that Richard Bere, when abbot, did a considerable portion of the work in that transept. And they would not only find his monogram outside, but the same monogram occurred on a little fragment of glass in the chancel, and three ears of barley for Bere on another, and the initials were also to be seen on one of the bench-ends ; all which pointed to the fact that Bere did a good deal towards the rebuilding and furnishing of the church. The mouldings on the font were interesting. The tower of the church was nearly the finest they would be visiting that year as a society. It was enriched from the ground right up to the top. It was built of blue lias stone with Ham Hill dressings. Every stage of the tower was ornamented, and some, at any rate, of the niches had originally, statues. The angles of the tower were treated in a way very common

throughout Mid-Somerset. There were three buttresses at each angle, which interpenetrated. The parapets were almost always built later than the towers themselves, and with more ornamentation, and this was the case here.

Lt.-Col. BRAMBLE remarked that the church possessed one of the pre-Reformation bells with the inscription thereon :— “ *Sancta Anna, ora pro nobis.* ” He also gave the following description of the monument in the north aisle, to which Mr. Buckle had referred. “ Against the north wall of the north transept, under a 15th century sepulchral arch, lies the stone effigy of a priest of much earlier date. He is represented in eucharistic vestments ; alb, with close sleeves and large apparels at wrists and foot ; stole and maniple, both very narrow, and with fringed ends ; amice, with apparel, and chasuble falling from the shoulders in graceful folds. The chasuble has a pallium, or Y-shaped orphrey (shaped like the pall, the distinguishing vestment of an archbishop). The embroidered apparel, or border, of the amice (which in later dates appears like an upright collar to the chasuble) lies almost flat. The hair is long and flowing, but with a large tonsure on the top of the head. The date of the effigy may be fixed as the end of the 13th or early part of the 14th century.”

Mr. W. GEORGE, of Bristol, said that it was in this village that the royal cavalry were quartered on Sunday evening, July 5th, the day before the battle of Sedgmoor, and that the Earl of Feversham had here fixed his headquarters. One of the parish registers, which the Rev. C. M. Rogers has kindly shown us, contains the following contemporary entry, written probably by the Rev. Thomas Perrat, vicar in 1685, who died in 1709, and was buried in this church :—

“ Ann account of the ffight that was in Langmore, the six of July, 1685, between the King’s Army and the D. of M.

The Ingagement began between one and two of the clock in the morning. It continued nearly one hour and a halfe. There was killed upon the spott of the King’s

souldiers sixteen ; ffive of them buried in the church, the rest in the churchyard, and they had all of them Christian buriall. One hundred or more of the King's souldiers wounded : of which wounds many died, of which wee have no certaine account. There was killed of the rebels upon the spott aboute 300 : hanged with us 22, of which 4 weare hanged in gemmasses.\* Aboute 500 prisoners brought into our church, of which there was 79 wounded, and 5 of them died of their wounds in our church."

"The D. of M. beheaded.

July 15, A.D. 1685."

The churchwardens' accounts contain the following entries :

"Expended when Monmouth was taken [July

8th] upon ringers .. ... 0 8 6

"Paid for Frankincense, &c., to burn in the

church after the prisoners was gone out ... 0 5 8"

From later entries in these accounts of payments for "beere" and "ringing when the King was in the more," and from statements in Bristol chronicles, Mr. George showed that King James II was in Bristol in August, 1686, and left it on the 27th for Sedgmoor, "to see the place where his army overthrew the Duke of Monmouth"; "the last fight," Macaulay says, "deserving the name of a battle that has been fought on English ground." Though the fact of the King's visit to Sedgmoor was not noticed by Macaulay, it was confirmed by contemporary authorities.

The next church visited was that of

### Giddlezop,

where the party was welcomed by the Rev. R. Stokes, vicar.

Mr. BUCKLE described the church as being remarkable for the beauty of the geometrical tracery. In the east window

\* "Gimmace : a hinge. When a criminal is gibbeted, or hung in irons or chains, he is said to be hung in *Gimmaces*, most probably because the apparatus swings about as if on hinges.—J. Jennings, "Dialect of the West of England," 1825.





HERE LYES THE BODY OF LOVIS CHEVALEIR  
D<sup>E</sup> MISIERS A FRENCH GENTLEMAN: WHO  
BEHAVED HIMSELF WITH GREAT COURAGE  
AND GALLANTRY 78 YEARES IN THE ENGLISH  
SERVICES AND WAS VNFORTVNATELY SLAINE  
ON Y<sup>E</sup> 6 OF IVLY 68<sup>5</sup> AT THE BATTEL OF WESTON  
WHERE HE BEHAVED HIMSELF WITH ALL THE  
COURAGE IMAGINABLE AGAINST THE KINGS  
ENEMIES COMANDED BY A REBEL DUKE OF MVNMOUTH

BRASS IN MIDDLEZOY CHURCH

was most delicate tracery, the mullions of the tracery being only about an inch thick. It was charmingly refined work, and in a good state of preservation. Speaking from the exterior of the church, Mr. BUCKLE said that the work they were then looking at, belonged to the period of the 12th, or the beginning of the 13th century. He pointed out the low side window at the side of the aisle, and said that such windows were a great mystery. Many persons had explained their purpose, but in many different ways.

Lt.-Col. BRAMBLE remarked that in the east of England, such low side windows were common, especially near Peterborough.

Mr. BUCKLE further said that the tower of the church was exceedingly like that of Westonzoyland, but one storey less in height. In this class of tower there was little diminution in width from the ground upwards, so that the tower stood up bold and strong, whereas the tower of Othery, visible across the moor, was very decidedly pyramidal in outline. Proceeding inside the church, Mr. BUCKLE called attention to the good finish of the windows. There was a great delicacy in the work of the chancel. The screen, until quite recently, was placed further forward to line with the front edge of the chancel arch, but it had been shifted back to show the front of the chancel arch. The miserere stall in the chancel had been touched up in recent times, and it had been done in a way which showed that the modern carpenter had no conception how it was used, for he had made the top slope the wrong way, and so destroyed its usefulness. They would also notice the Jacobean pulpit. In the centre of the floor was to be seen a brass as a memorial of a Frenchman, Louis Chevalier de Misiers, who fell in the battle of Sedgmoor. This is given in our *Proceedings* (vol. xxiii, i, 55), but as that version is not correct, we reproduce the inscription, and hereby thank the vicar for giving us a rubbing.

Lt.-Col. BRAMBLE showed the communion plate, which in-

cluded a particularly handsome Elizabethan cup. The cover was used as a paten, and the date on the cover was 1573. They had there also one of the old pewter flagons.

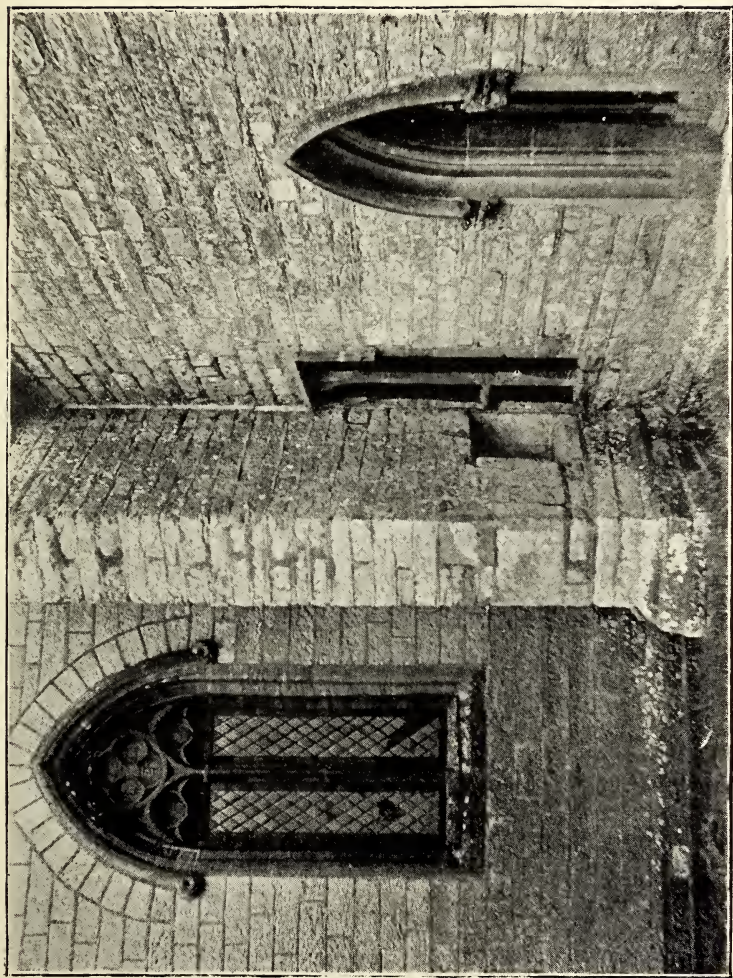
### **Othery Church.**

The drive was then continued to Othery, where the church was an object of much interest. The vicar, the Rev. C. M. de P. Gillan met the party in the church, which was undergoing a cleaning process at the hands of whitewashers. The church has a low side window which is situate just behind the great diagonal buttress of the tower, and is provided with a squint through the buttress.

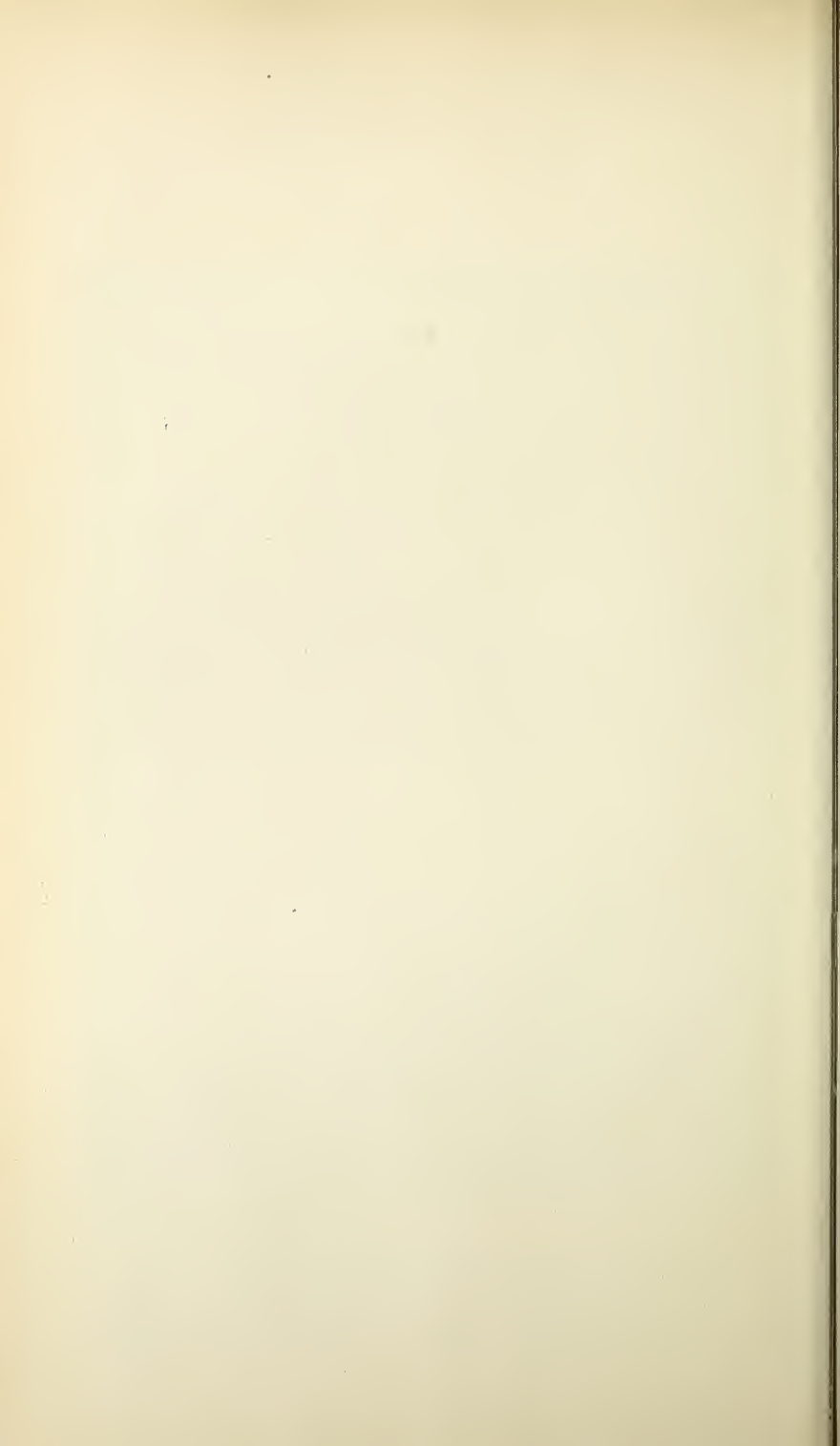
Mr. BUCKLE said that this window was very peculiar and threw some light upon the purpose of these low side windows. If the object were simply to communicate lepers, the squint through the buttress would not be needed: it was clear that this window was constructed for seeing through or hearing through, and not merely for the purpose of handing something through. The tower was quite different from those they had previously seen, as there was a great slope in the buttresses, causing quite a pyramidal outline. The date of the tower was about 1500, or probably later. There were figures in the niches of the tower, which included one of the Virgin Mary and child, and one of St. Michael and the Dragon. The chancel was Early English, and was built in the thirteenth century. The most curious feature of the church was the way in which the wide nave was joined on to the comparatively narrow central tower: the west face of the tower was supported on two detached pillars connected by narrow arches to the side walls of the nave. A similar device was found in the neighbouring church of Aller.

Lt.-Col. BRAMBLE remarked as regarded the squint window, that it was the only one of the kind in existence, and it had figured on several occasions in the archæological papers. A





LOW SIDE-WINDOW OTHERY, SOMERSET.





number of theories put forth was that it was used for communicating lepers and others not allowed to go into the church. The priest came down to the window and handed the wafer through it to those who were outside. Having pointed out that this window did not look towards the altar at all, Lt.-Col. BRAMBLE said if it was simply used for communicating, why should they have made a hole through the buttress, as there was plenty of room without that? Another opinion was that it was meant to show a light from the inside of the church to the churchyard, so as to scare away any evil spirits. A further opinion held was that a bell used to be rung outside the window to notify the elevation of the host.\* He called attention to the fine specimen of the Somerset waggon roof.

The VICAR exhibited a cope of the date about A.D. 1470, which was found concealed under the pulpit.

A short drive brought the party to

## Boroughbridge

where the Rev. W. Arnold, the vicar of the parish, welcomed the visitors. Luncheon was partaken of in the Schoolroom.

The President, Mr. E. J. Stanley, M.P., presided.

At the conclusion of the meal, Lt.-Col. BRAMBLE proposed a vote of thanks to all who had assisted at the annual meetings. First, they owed their sincere thanks to their President for his presence among them, and for his admirable address. Their thanks were also due to the Hon. Mrs. Stanley for having so hospitably entertained them. Likewise to the Mayor of Bridgewater, who had also entertained them; to the corporation who had afforded them kind facilities; to Mr. Bouverie, of Brymore; the Rev. A. H. A. Smith, of Lyng; and Mr. A. B. James, of North Petherton; also to the clergy who had

[\* On the subject of "Low side windows," there is a most interesting article by the late Mr. J. H. Parker in the *Archæological Journal*, vol. iv, pp. 314-326, in which Othery is figured and is described as "the most remarkable specimen of these openings." Mr. Parker also gives no less than twelve theories as to the use of these windows.—ED.]

thrown open their churches to them, and to the owners and occupiers of houses who had permitted them to see them. It was anything but pleasant to have an invasion of from 100 to 150 archæologists who always wanted to see everything and afterwards to know the reason why. They must further thank the local committee and Dr. Winterbotham, who had been working for months in the perfection of the arrangements, and had made the meeting the success it had been. Then there was the Rev. W. Arnold who must be mentioned, and their heartiest thanks were due to Mr. Buckle for his description of the churches they had visited. For some years past he had come down and given them the benefit of his experience, and he (the speaker) felt sure they were all deeply indebted to him. He begged to propose that the cordial thanks of the Society be given to those he had mentioned.

The Rev. Prebendary BULLER seconded the resolution. He mentioned that he was one of the oldest members of the Society, and he had known their excellent president longer than anyone else in the room. Lt.-Col. Bramble had omitted all mention of himself, but he (Preb. Buller) did not know what the Somersetshire archæologists would do without him. Their gatherings became more and more pleasant year by year, and the fact that every place they had this year visited had been familiar to him from his earliest years, instead of detracting from his interest in the gathering, had very much increased it. He anticipated the greatest possible pleasure, if he were spared one more year, in receiving the Society in his own dear parish, which was not far from there.

The resolution was then carried.

The PRESIDENT, in acknowledging the vote, spoke of the deep interest which was taken in the Society throughout the county. He felt sure that there was no man, whatever his position might be, but would heartily welcome them and encourage the inquiries which they, as archæologists, were fond of making.

From Boroughbridge the party drove to

### **Lyng,**

where the ancient church was visited. The Rev. A. H. A. Smith and his brother extended a hearty welcome to the visitors.

Mr. BUCKLE said that the church had been almost untouched by modern restorers, and taken on the whole it had been unaltered since mediæval times, except so far as keeping the building wind and weather tight. This also necessitated doing a little to the roof, and also some plastering, which had hidden the oak roof. It was one of those waggon roofs, specimens of which they had seen elsewhere that day. The building, taken generally, was of a period earlier than the majority of their churches, the main part of it being rather of a transitional character between Decorated and Perpendicular. The window to the north of the altar was on a very much smaller scale than the others. The other windows in the chancel had got the Perpendicular mullions. One of the most interesting features of the church was the very remarkable arrangement for the rood screen, of which the greater part had perished, but the base remained. The reason why the stone jambs of the chancel arch were so plain, was that the screen was carried up and fitted into the rebate round the arch, and filled up the whole of the arch space, so that the adjoining stonework was almost entirely hidden. There was a somewhat similar treatment at Winsham, where a painting of a crucifixion had been fitted into and filled up the arch over the rood loft. The pulpit was made of mediæval carved benches, and the whole of the seats in the nave were as they were originally put in. On some of the ends was depicted a stag-hunt. Mr. BUCKLE also pointed out a curious economy in the tower ; on three sides there are two windows in the belfry story, side by side, but on the south side, which is comparatively little seen, a single window was thought sufficient.

The VICAR remarked that the church up to the year 1337, was a chapelry of Athelney Abbey. Whether King Alfred resided at Athelney or not, and whether it was a resting-place for his children, he was intimately connected with Athelney, and they claimed him as the most famous parishioner of Lyng, in which parish Athelney was situated. He was glad they had been able to see the church in an unrestored state. It was his wish, however, to have it restored, and he intended to set about it before long, and when they received a circular appealing for funds, he hoped they would respond to it. The Vicar, in conclusion, alluded to King Alfred as a staunch supporter of the Church of England, and the founder of the British Navy.

A word or two having been said as to the derivation of East Lyng, the Rev. J. E. ODGERS expressed the opinion that it came from Ætheling.

The company was afterwards hospitably entertained to tea in the schoolroom by the Vicar and Major Smith.

The party next drove to Shovell Hill, North Petherton, the residence of Mr. James, C.C., who had very kindly invited the members and their friends to tea. After remaining here for some time, and Mr. and Mrs. James being thanked by Lt.-Col. Bramble on behalf of the Society for their hospitality, the carriages were re-entered, and the party proceeded to

### **North Petherton Church.**

Mr. BUCKLE's services were here once more requisitioned. He remarked that the great feature of this church was the tower. When he said at Westonzoyland that that was the finest tower to be visited this year, he forgot for the moment that they were coming to North Petherton. The Weston tower was an exceedingly fine one, but he thought it must be allowed by everybody that North Petherton was a still finer example, for they had there quite one of the most elaborate

and at the same time artistic towers in Somerset. In this case there was no question of taking a slice out of the tower, taking out or putting in a storey, or making it lower or higher, for the whole tower from bottom to top was a single composition. The top storey was one mass of ornamentation, and the panels over the belfry windows added greatly to the general effect. With regard to the interior of the church there was very little of importance to describe, but one of the most interesting features was, perhaps, the fact of the smallness of the piers which carried the chancel arch. Mr. Buckle at this point was reminded that there was no more time to spare, as some of the members wanted to return to their homes by an early train from Bridgwater, and in consequence he curtailed his description of the building.

The return journey was then made, Bridgwater being reached about 6.30, and thus ended what was generally acknowledged to have been one of the most successful and enjoyable of the annual gatherings that had been held under the auspices of the Society.



## The Local Museum.

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AN upper room of the Town Hall was utilised as a temporary Museum, and the following were among the objects of interest lent.

*Rev. C. W. Whistler.*—Ancient Sussex Ironwork, formerly preserved in Battle Abbey, consisting of a violin, flesh-hooks from the kitchen, Abbey padlock and keys, spur *temp.* Edward III, tobacco stopper *temp.* William III, model of the Viking ship, 10th century, found at Søndefjord, Norway.

*Mr. Corder.*—Neolithic flint spear head and polisher, and quartzite hammer-stone found near Chelmsford. Piece of sixteenth century tapestry, and a number of rubbings of brasses from various parts of England.

*Mr. Rookley.*—Wooden quart measure, bound with a copper rim inscribed "Bridgwater," probably one of the original borough standard measures; medal of the Duke of Cumberland, "Rebellion Justly Rewarded, Culloden, 16 Ap., 1746," found near Bridgwater; broadsheet, "Bridgwater Amusements, 1794."

*Mr. Stodate.*—Frame containing some notes of the "Bridgwater and Somerset Bank,"—one £1, seven £5, and one £10; twelve seventeenth century Bridgwater tokens, three eighteenth century Bridgwater tokens; *British Directory*, vol. ii, containing Bridgwater; *General Directory for the County of Somerset*, Taunton, 1840; drawings of Ham Mills on the Tone, and Royal Hotel, Bridgwater; Engineer's report on the Geology of Bridgwater; *Penal Laws, a Discourse or Charge at Sessions in the Borough of Bridgwater*, 12th July, 1680; proposal for establishing a Medical Institution in Bridgwater, 1813; *Taunton and Bridgwater Journal*, printed by C. H. Drake, Taunton, 1812.

*The Corporation of Bridgwater.*—Three silver maces of the time of Charles II, all inscribed “Charles II, King of England, Scotland, and France, and Ireland,” the larger one dated “1660;” the maker’s mark  is on all three, so that they are probably all of one date. Two silver cups, inscribed “Ex dono Margaretæ Jones Viduæ,” the arms, a castle on a bridge, are probably intended for Bridgwater, though not drawn as usually represented; the date-letter hall mark is that for the year 1640-1. Salt cellar, circular in form, with broad-spreading foot, and three arms at top for supporting a napkin to cover the salt, a well known form of seventeenth century salts; inscribed round the body “Ex dono Tho. Wrothe milit. Recordat. Burgi de Bridgwater, 1638,” on the top “Sal sapit omnia;” the date-letter is for the year 1633-4, four years earlier than the earliest specimen known and recorded in Cripps’s *Old English Plate*. Several old charters, and the mayor’s chain were also exhibited.

*Mr. W. B. Broadmead.*—Polished stone axe found in Enmore Park; Buck’s View of Enmore Castle.

*Mr. R. C. Else* (Mayor of Bridgwater).—Eight engravings of old Bridgwater.

*Mr. T. H. Boys.*—Views of Crowcombe Court, Fairfield, Enmore Castle, Old Cross at Nether Stowey, Hatch Court, interior of old St. Mary’s Church, Bridgwater; drawings of Stogursey Castle, and of the “Three Crowns” and “Fleur-de-lis” Inns, Bridgwater; Copper sign “Bull and Butcher;” cannon balls shot from Bridgwater Castle during the siege; painted badge “Huntspill Harmonic Society;” two old painted trays from Pike’s factory, Bridgwater; old Bridgwater pottery jugs; constables’ staves and watchman’s rattle; engraved drinking horn, and some other things of general rather than local interest.

*Mr. T. F. Norris.*—Order for the removal of cattle during the murrain, 1757; bell-metal “posnet,” a three-legged crock or skillet with straight handle, lettered “Bee Constant, 1775;”

upper stone of a quern, and some Roman coins, found at Gold Corner, Huntspill; an old "Leathern Bottell," with piece cut out of the side,

" . . . . . hang it up to a pin  
 "Twill serve to put hinges and odd things in."

*Custom House.*—Impressions from early stamps of the ports of Bridgwater and Minehead; iron-bound chest, with massive locks, sixteenth century.

*Borough Police Office.*—Eleven Watchmen's Staves, 1819.

*Mr. Harold S. Thompson.*—Herbarium of dried plants, comprising about sixteen hundred specimens of British flowering plants and ferns, among them being many specimens of great botanical and local interest, the bulk of the collection having been obtained from the neighbourhood of Bridgwater. One small cabinet contained specimens of *Rubi* only, chiefly from Warwickshire and the Quantock district, many of which had been named by the late Professor Babington. Among the plants shown on the table was a specimen of the rare sea knot-grass (*Polygonum maritimum*) which, as a boy of twelve, Mr. Thompson discovered at Burnham, Somerset, it being then not only new to the county, but extremely rare in Britain.<sup>1</sup> Perhaps the most interesting of the botanical exhibits were the specimens collected in the neighbourhood of Bridgwater by the late Thomas Clark, who was born at Greinton in 1793, and died at Bridgwater in 1864. Thomas Clark was an accurate and conscientious botanist, and member of the Botanical Society of London; he did much of his work in conjunction with the Rev. J. C. Collins, of St. John's, Bridgwater, and the Rev. John Poole, both of whom contributed many notes to the (Somerset) Supplement of Watson's *New Botanists' Guide*, 1837; but some of these records had been doubted by subsequent students of Somersetshire botany, for the plants

(1). Since the meeting, this plant has been noticed among a list of plants printed in *A Compleat History of Somersetshire*, 1740, "found on the Severn shore, near Weston-super-Mare."

were not submitted for verification, and some had apparently become extinct. However, in 1891, a portion of Clark's Herbarium came into the hands of Mr. Thompson, when the old records were to a great extent confirmed. It is gratifying to hear that this summer one of these plants, supposed to have become extinct (*Papaver hybridum*), has been re-discovered in the district by the Rev. C. W. Whistler, of Stockland, after it had disappeared for many years. In 1856, Thomas Clark contributed a list of the *Rarer Plants of the Turfmoors* to the *Proceedings* of the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society, of which he was a member.

## Additions to the Society's Museum and Library

*During the Year 1897.*

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### THE MUSEUM.

Convict Leg-Iron from Port Arthur, Tasmania.—From Mr. FRANKLIN.

Chinese Sword in Shagreen Scabbard.—From the Rev. W. ROUSE.

Bank Token, 10d. Irish, 1805.—From Mr. YANDALL.

Section of a Chestnut Tree ; half-section of Oak Tree, showing annular rings.—From Mr. WYATT.

A large rounded ball of red sandstone from a gravel bed at Bishop's Lydeard ; pair of horns of the native red cattle of, and peculiar to, Burmah.—From Major FOSTER.

Stuffed White Mole.—From Mr. ESDAILE.

Instrument for weighing a guinea and half-guinea.—From Mr. SAUNDERS.

Mounted Engraving, "The Triumph of Venus."—From Mr. C. H. SPENCER PERCEVAL.

Parcel of Devonian Fossils.—From Mr. USSHER, H.M. Geological Survey.

Two specimens of the Honey Ant from West Australia.—From Mr. W. A. G. WALTER.

Sections of Box, Mulberry, and Laburnum Trees.—From Mr. MULFORD.

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### THE LIBRARY.

*Memorials of Wincanton People.*—From Mr. SWEETMAN.

*Fifty-seventh Annual Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records ; Index of Surnames in the Registers at Cucklington and at Stoke Trister (MSS.).*—From the Rev. E. H. BATES.



*Daily Weather Reports for 1896 ; Somerset Lives.*—From Dr. PRIOR.

*Fourth Annual Report of the Bureau of Agriculture, Montana, 1896.*

Order of Procession on Laying the Foundation Stone of St. Mary's Tower, Taunton, August 3rd, 1858 ; and Order of Coronation Procession, Taunton, June 28, 1838.—From Mr. MEYLER.

*Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society*, vol. iv, pts. 7, 8, 9.

*A Brief History of the Hospital of St. John Baptist, Bath*, by R. E. Peach.—From the Rev. I. S. GALE.

*On the Disappearance of Certain Species of Insects.*—From the author, Mr. F. BOUSKELL.

Nova Scotian Institute of Science—*Proceedings*, vol. ix.

*Life and Letters of James David Forbes, F.R.S., etc.* *Army List*, January, 1897.—From Major CHISHOLM-BATTEN.

Chicago Academy of Sciences.—*The Lichen Flora of Chicago. Report for 1896.*

*Reports of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records*, 1 to 54, 56, 57. *Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society*, 1st series, 1839 to 1865 (part 2, vol. i wanting) ; 2nd series, 1865 to 1889 (parts 27, 28, 32, 33, 36 wanting) ; 3rd series, 1890 (nos. 15, 18, 19, 20, 23, 27 wanting) ; *Letters and Papers on Agriculture, etc., of the Bath Society*, vol. i, 2nd ed. ; vols. iii, iv, vii. *Ordinum Religiosorum in Ecclesia Militanti catalogus* a Philippo Bonanni, 4 vols., 4to., Rome 1714 ; *Brice's Gazeteer or Topographic Dictionary*, 2 vols., fol., 1759 ; *Henry VII, Prince Arthur, and Cardinal Morton, from a group on the Chancel Screen of Plymtree Church, Devon.* From Mr. JOHN BATTEN.

Yorkshire Philosophical Society. *Report for 1896.*

*Chronicon Radulphi Higden*, vols. 8, 9 ; *Materials for the History of Archbishop Thomas Becket*, vols. 6, 7 ; *Matthæi Parisiensis, Chronica Major*, vols. 6, 7 ; *Historians of the*

*Church of York and its Archbishops*, vols. 2, 3; *Sarum Charters and Documents*; *Giraldus Cambrensis*, vol. 8; *Calendar of Patent Rolls*, Edward I, Edward II, Edward III, Richard II, 7 vols.; *Calendar of Close Rolls*, Edward II, Edward III, 4 vols. From the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records. In exchange.

Various Books and Pamphlets on Geology, Agriculture, etc., from the University of California.

*Catalogue of Fossil Cephalopoda*, part 3; *Catalogue of Tertiary Mollusca*, part 1; *Guide to Fossil Mammals and Birds*; *Guide to Fossil Invertebrates and Plants*; *Guide to Fossil Reptiles and Fishes*.—From the Trustees of the British Museum (Natural History).

*The Progress of Merthyr Tydvil*.—From the author, Mr. J. G. E. ASTLE.

*The Parish of Selworthy: some Notes on its History*.—From the author, Rev. F. HANCOCK.

*Collections for a Parochial History of Barrow Gurney*.—From the Rev. I. S. GALE.

*The Legendary and Historical Associations of Glastonbury*.—From the author, Rev. T. S. HOLMES.

*The Prebendal Stalls and Miserecordes in Wells Cathedral*.—From the author, Rev. Canon CHURCH.

*What led to the Discovery of the Source of the Nile*; *Marriott's Sermons Preached at Margaret's Chapel, Bath*, 1830; *Toulmin's Life of Socinus*, 1777; *Sermons by Rev. R. Oakman, of Martock*, 1847; *Memorials of the late Elizabeth Langford*; *Evangelical Principles and Practice*, by Haweis; *The Jubilee Memorial of the Rev. Wm. Jay, of Bath*; *Hymns for use in Churches*, by the Rev. G. Dance; *Grove's Sermons*, vols. v, vi; *The Somerset Roll: an Experimental List of Worthies, Unworthies, and Villains born in the County*.—From Mr. C. TITE.

*The French in Wincanton*.—From the author, Mr. GEO. SWEETMAN.

*The Castle Cary Visitor*, 12 nos., 1897.—From Mr. MACMILLAN.

*The English Ancestry of the Families of Batt and Biley*.—From the author, Mr. J. H. LEA.

*List of Parish Registers and other Genealogical Works*, edited by Fredk. A. Crisp.—From the editor.

*Proceedings of the Society of Psychical Research*, part 32, *On the So-called Divining Rod*, by Professor W. F. Barrett.—From Mr. Edward T. BENNETT.

*Received from Societies in Correspondence for the Exchange of Publications.*

Royal Archæological Institute—*Archæological Journal*, nos. 212, 213, 214, 215.

British Archæological Association—*Journal*, new series, vol. ii, pt. 4 ; vol. iii, pts. 1, 2.

British Association—*Report*, 1896.

Society of Antiquaries of London—*Proceedings*, vol. xvi, nos. 2, 3, 4.

Society of Antiquaries of Scotland —*Proceedings*, vol. xxx.

Royal Irish Academy—*Transactions*, vol. xxx, pts. 18, 19, 20, 25, 27 ; *Proceedings*, vol. iv, nos. 1, 2, 3.

Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland—*Journal*, vol. vi, pt. 4 ; vol. vii, pts. 1, 2.

Suffolk Institute of Archæology and Natural History—*Proceedings*, vol. ix, pt. 2.

Sussex Archæological Society—*Collections*, vol. xl.

Surrey Archæological Society—*Collections*, vol. xiii, pt. 2.

Wiltshire Archæological and Natural History Society—*Magazine*, nos. 86, 87 ; *Additions to the Library*, appendix ii, June, 1897 ; *Abstract of Wiltshire Inquisitiones Post Mortem*, pt. 4.

Plymouth Institution and Devon and Cornwall Natural History Society—*Report*, vol. xii, pts. 2, 3.

- Kent Archæological Society—*Archæologia Cantiana*, vol. xxii.
- Bristol and Gloucestershire Archæological Society—*Transactions*, vol. xix, pt. 2 ; vol. xx, pt. 1.
- Powys Land Club—*Montgomeryshire Collections*, vol. xxix, pt. 2.
- Derbyshire Archæological and Natural History Society—*Journal*, vol. xix.
- Shropshire Archæological and Natural History Society—*Transactions*, vol. ix, pts. 1, 2, 3.
- Hertfordshire Natural History Society—*Transactions*, vol. vii, pt. 7 ; vol. viii, pts. 1 to 5 ; vol. ix, pt. 4.
- Essex Archæological Society—*Transactions*, vol. vi, pts. 2, 3.
- Leicestershire Architectural and Archæological Society—*Transactions*, vol. viii, pt. 4.
- Yorkshire Archæological Society—*Journal*, pt. 55.
- Northamptonshire Naturalists' Society—*Journal*, nos. 65 to 68.
- Bath Natural History and Antiquarian Field Club—*Proceedings*, vol. viii, no. 4.
- Geologists' Association—*Proceedings*, vol. xv, pts. 1, 2, 3, 4.
- Liverpool Literary and Philosophical Society—*Proceedings*, vol. li.
- Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society—*Proceedings*, vol. xli, pts. 2, 3, 4.
- Essex Field Club—*Essex Naturalist*, vol. ix, nos. 7 to 24 ; vol. x, nos. 1 to 4.
- Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle-upon-Tyne—*Archæologia Æliana*, vol. xix, pts. 1, 2 ; *Warkworth Parish Registers*.
- Cambridge Antiquarian Society—*Biographical Notes on the thirty-eight Librarians of Trinity College ; List of Members. Proceedings*, no. xxxviii.
- Chester Archæological and Historical Society—*Journal*, vol. vi, pt. 1.
- Clifton Antiquarian Club—*Proceedings*, vol. iii, pt. 3.
- The Reliquary and Illustrated Archæologist—vol. iii, nos. 1, 2, 3, 4.

- Royal University of Christiania—*Beskrivelse af en Række Norske Bergarter*, af Dr. Th. Kjerulf, Schjôtt, Samlede Philologiske Afhandlinger. Barth, Norronaskaller Crania Antiqua. Sars, Fauna Norvegiæ.
- Smithsonian Institution, Washington, U.S.—*Report*, 1894. *Report of the U.S. National Museum*, 1895; *Proceedings of the U.S. National Museum*, 1895, vol. xviii; Bulletin, nos. 47, 49; Life Histories of North American Birds; Oceanic Ichthyology.—The Fishes of North and Middle America.
- Bureau of American Ethnology—*Annual Report* vols. xiv, xv.
- New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston, U.S.—*Register*, nos. 201, 202, 204; *Proceedings*, January 6, 1897.
- Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, U.S.—*Proceedings*, 1896, pts. 2, 3; 1897, pt. 1.
- Canadian Institute—*Proceedings*, vol. i, pt. 1.
- Société Vaudoise des Sciences Naturelles, Lausanne—*Bulletin*, nos. 122, 123, 124.
- University of Upsala—*Zoologiska Studier*—Festskrift Wilhelm Lilljeborg. Carl von Linné, pts. 5, 6.

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*Purchased :—*

- Harleian Society—*Registers of the Cathedral Church of Durham*, 1609—1896; *Registers of St. George's, Hanover Square*, vol. iii.
- Oxford Historical Society—*Collectanea*, iii; *History of Pembroke College*.
- Palæontographical Society, vol. li.
- Ray Society, vol. for 1894.
- Early English Text Society, nos. 108, 109.
- Pipe Roll Society, vol. xxii.
- Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries, pts. 37, 38, 39.
- Whitaker's *Almanack*, 1897.
- Seebohm's *Coloured Figures of British Birds' Eggs*.



Bishop Ken's *Prayers for the Use of all Persons who come to the Baths of Bath for cure*, with *Life* by Markland.

Ken's *Exposition of the Church Catechism*.

Beedle's *Visitors' Handbook of Weston-super-Mare*.

Wild's *Great Western Railway Map*, 1840.

Ken's *Approach to the Holy Altar*, 3rd ed., 1854.

*Golden Remains of the ever memorable Mr. John Hales*, 1638.

*Selections from the Poetical Works of Bishop Ken*.

Dr. Magee's *Voluntary System of the Established Church*.

Cary's *Map of Somerset*, 1842.

*Letter to . . . . . on the Rev. W. L. Bowles' Strictures on the Life and Writings of Pope*.

*Final Appeal to the Literary Public Relative to Pope*.

Craddock's *Supplement to Knowledge and Practice*.

Three Civil War Tracts.—*A Letter concerning the raising of the Siege of Taunton*, 1645 ; *The Proceedings of the Army under the Command of Sir Thomas Fairfax, from the first of July to the sixth, containing the story of the Club-men, and Relief of Taunton*, 1645 ; *A True Relation of a Victory over the King's Forces being fought neere Langport, July 10, 1645*.

*The Royal Sufferer, a Manual of Meditations and Devotions*, by Bishop Ken.

*Episcopal Registers, Diocese of Exeter*—John de Grandison, part 2.

*Year Book 16 Edward III*, pt. 1.

*Fifty-fifth Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records*.

Cooke's *Description of Somerset*, circa 1830.

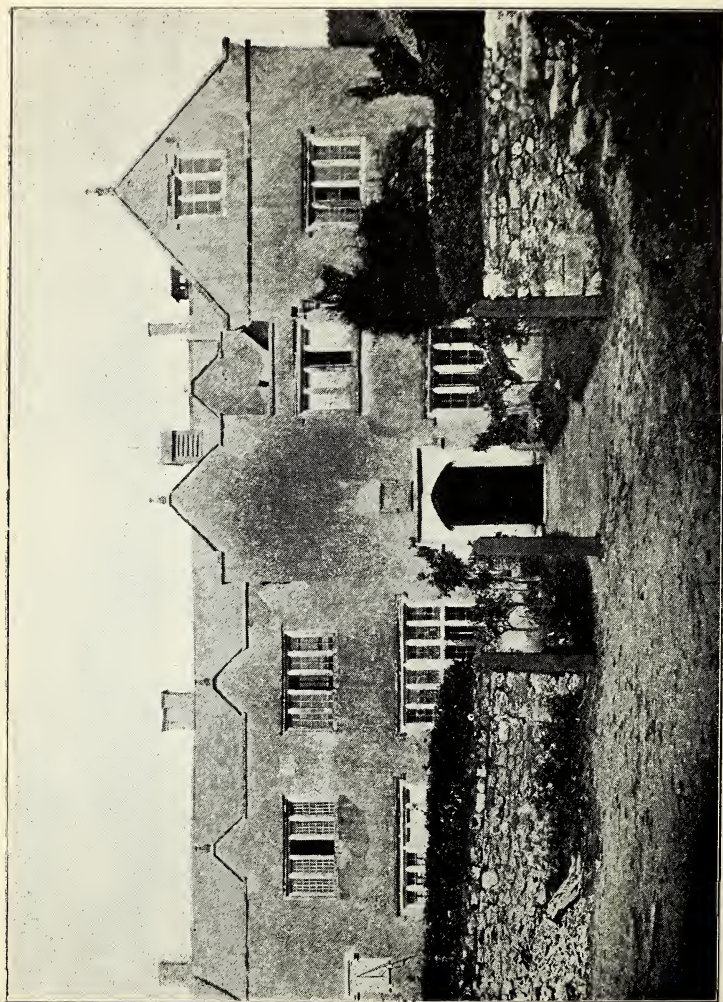
*Original Letters from Richard Baxter, and others*, edited by Rebecca Warner, Bath, 1817.

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*Deposited on Loan.*

An Albino Kangaroo from Western Australia, by Miss Walter, of Wellington.





SAND.-SIDBURY, DEVON

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
SOMERSETSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND  
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY  
DURING THE YEAR  
1897.

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*PART II.—PAPERS, ETC.*

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**Huyshe ;**

OF LOD-HUISH AND DONIFORD, IN SOMERSET,  
AND OF SAND, IN DEVON.

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PREFATORY NOTE.

A FEW years since the MS. containing the following pedigree of Huyshe was purchased from the catalogue of a London bookseller. It is carefully written and bound, and appears from a letter preserved and inserted, that it was sent by the Rev. Francis Huyshe, of Pennsylvania, Exeter, to John Burke, Esq., of Raynham Place, Chelsea, London, on 19th September, 1839. In this letter Mr. Huyshe says, "with this you will receive a correct copy of Mr. Protheroe's pedigree of Huyshe, which I believe you expect from him. I am fully confident, that you will think your most valuable work really honoured by the high ability and zeal that has spared neither trouble nor expense, which he has brought to the work, upon which he has been engaged very many years."

It is probable Mr. Burke was then compiling his *Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Commoners of Great Britain and Ireland*, and this pedigree was furnished him to give

particulars relative to the family of Huyshe. It has been transcribed verbatim, slightly re-arranged in a few places for greater clearness. The Notes added have been collected from various sources, and special thanks are offered to Mr. Roscoe Gibbs for the gift of his excellent drawings for the illustrations.

W. H. HAMILTON ROGERS, F.S.A.

EXETER, *June, 1897.*

## INTRODUCTION.

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THE following pedigree is based :—

I.—On the MSS. of Mr. Palmer of Fairfield, who took great pains in the beginning of the last century on families of West Somerset. His papers, which are in possession of Sir Peregrine Palmer Acland, Bart., and his mother Lady Acland, give the whole of the old Doniford Huyshe, and the branch (of Wells) which produced Alexander Huish, the great assistant of Walton in his Polyglott. Collinson is greatly indebted to Mr. Palmer.

II.—The Heralds *Visitations*, which give Doniford and its branches of London, Sand, and Clysthidon, from Oliver Huyshe temp. Henry VI, down to the present.

III.—An old pedigree found among deeds that had been brought from Sand in 1724. This gives the family of Huyshe who first resided at Sand before the building of the present house; and states the connection of the Huyshe of Taunton with those of Doniford and Sand. Its correctness is everywhere proved.

I conceive that every real judge will be struck with the ability and indefatigable zeal of Mr. Protheroe, now M.P. for Halifax, in corroborating these, and filling up from every kind of authentic documents.

FRANCIS HUYSHE.

PENNSYLVANIA, NEAR EXETER,

*September, 1837.*



PRINTED ACCOUNTS OF THE FAMILY  
OF HUYSHE.

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SOME notices occur in Collinson's *History of Somersetshire* :—

I.—Introduction, page xxviii. Richard de Lod-Hywish, among the possessors of land temp. Edward I.

II.—Page 201. Beckington,—Alexander Huish.

III.—Page 491. St. Decumans.

III.—Page 541. Nettlecombe,—Lodhuish.

A brief notice is found in Risdon's *Devon* (Sidbury, p. 34, ed. 1811), who seems to have thought that none but an upstart could be *faber sue fortunæ*.

Sir William Pole—*Collections*, page 514—on “Hiwys of Hiwys,” bears testimony against this; p. 165 on Sand, Sir William notices Rowland Huyshe, who built the “dainty dwelling,” as it was in Risdon's time.

A drawing of Sand appears in the *Gentleman's Magazine* of March, 1834.

Lyson's *Britannia* notices Huyshe at p. cxlix, p. 119 and 444. He has deviated from the account that I gave him, and is incorrect where he chose to depart from it. He, like Risdon, at cxlix, is in opposition to Sir William Pole, 514. He says Huyshe was probably a younger branch of Hiwis of Hiwis.

NOTE.—The offending notice by Risdon runs thus :—“*Sand*, was by the dean and chapter granted unto William, surnamed of the place, in the reign of King Henry III, to whom succeeded Deodatus his son, afterwards by a daughter of Trivett, this land came to Tremayle, from whom descended Sir Thomas Tremayle, one of the justices of common pleas in King Henry VII's time. This was since purchased by one Huish, who is here seated in a dainty dwelling.”

Sir W. Pole, who Risdon appears to have followed in his description of the descent, says nothing as to a “dainty dwelling”; which was Risdon's commentary; with the somewhat contemptuous prefix as to its builder.

Westcote notes—“In Sidbury at Sand, is a generous race of Huish.”

The engraving of Sand was given by the Rev. Francis Huyshe to the *Gentleman's Magazine*.

## ARMS.

THE bearing of Huyshe since the marriage with the heiress of Roach has been :—*Argent, on a bend sable, three lucas of the field.* Crest :—*On a wreath argent and sable, an elephant's head coupé argent, crowned and tusked or.*

The ancient bearings of Huyshe (tricked in the MS.) were

1. *A chevron between three roundels.*
2. *A chevron, and in a chief three walnut or oak leaves.*

NOTE.—In a genealogical window in Clysthidon church, the tinctures of the ancient coats of Huyshe are thus given :—(1) *Sable, a chevron or, in a chief argent, three leaves proper,* and (2) *Gules, a chevron between three plates argent.*

THE REV. FRANCIS HUYSHE, sometime rector of Clysthidon, Prebendary (of) Cutton in the Castle of Exeter, born 29th Feb., 1768, married at Halifax in Yorkshire, 18th May, 1803. HARRIET, third daughter of JOHN WATERHOUSE of Wellhead, Halifax, Esq., and Elizabeth his wife, second daughter and coheir of Charles Beaty of Louth, by Bridget, daughter and coheir of Robert Saunderson of Alford (Lincolnshire), born 14th Oct., 1771. Issue :

- 1.—*Horatio*, born 3rd Nov., 1805, died 31st Dec. same year.
- 2.—*Harriet*, born 13th March, 1810 (married 20th Feb., 1838 to Arthur Abbott).
- 3.—*Wentworth*, born 29th May, 1812, died at Madeira 22nd Nov., 1829.

NOTE.—Inscription in Clysthidon church :—"The Rev. Francis Huyshe, M.A., many years rector of this parish. Born at Pembridge, Herefordshire, 29th February, 1768. Died, 28th August, 1839."

Arms :—Huyshe, impaling ; *Or, a pile engrailed sable.* (WATERHOUSE).

A memorial window to Arthur Abbott, ob. Nov. 1848, erected by his widow, and a tablet to Wentworth Huyshe who died at Madeira, 1829.

His early virtues and the affection of his schoolfellows are recorded on a cenotaph erected by them to his memory in Harrow church.

## LINEAGE.

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THIS is a branch of the antient family of Huyshe of Doniford, in Somersetshire, whose name, originally spelt Hywis, was taken from their residence Lod-Hywis in the same county.

James Huyshe, third son of John Huyshe of Doniford, living in the latter part of the sixteenth century, acquired considerable wealth by trade in London.

Sand in Devonshire, which he bought of his cousins, Thomas and Anthony Huysh, became the residence of his eldest son Rowland and his posterity until 1724.

James Huyshe, the eldest son of Rowland, married a coheir of the Reynells, of Credy, and his descendants thus became possessed of the manor and advowson of Clysthidon.

NOTE.—The very antient name of Hiwis or Hywis, subsequently softened by many variants to Huish or Huyshe, as a family appellative, is found in the three counties of Somerset, Devon, and Cornwall. These may all have descended from a common ancestor, or what is equally probable derived the name from the locality they resided in. A recent writer, the Rev. J. Stubbs—article, Huish-Episcopi—in Vol. XX, *S. A. & N. H. S. Proceedings*, 1894, p. 76, remarks “The word Huish is variously derived. By some it is traced to the Celtic ‘Wych’ (pronounced OO-ish) meaning ‘water,’ and it is assigned as a reason why so many places bear this designation that they are to be found in those spots, where a small rivulet or stream trickles down between two rising grounds. By others, the origin of the name is to be found in the Anglo-Saxon ‘Hi-wisc’—‘the homestead’—‘the homestead farm’—consisting of a ‘hide’ of land, the territorial possession of a primitive Teutonic family, and we are pointed to the fact that each Huish is to be found near some large town. But whatever the origin of the word ‘Huish’ the name carries us far back into history.”

Hiwis is mentioned in *Domesday*, and thus quoted by Collinson, vol. i, p. xxviii:—

SUMMERSETE. Raimer (clericus) ten. de W. HIWIS. Chinesi tenuit T.R.E. & geldebat pro una virg. terræ. Terra est 1 car. quæ ibi est cum 1 servo & 1 cotar & 3 bord. Valuit & val. 10 solid. Radulfus ten. de W. HIWIS. Ailui tenuit T.R.E. & geldebat pro una virg. terræ. Terra est 1 car. quæ ibi est cum 5 bord. Valuit & val. 10 sol.

Beside the Lod-Hywish of this present descent in Nettlecombe, we have Huish-Episcopi and Huish-Champfflower in Somerset, and Huish in North Devon, and North and South Huish in South Devon, all parishes so named.

The Somersetshire family of Hywis or Huish, is carefully traced in the pedigree. Of the Devonshire descent Sir W. Pole writes, p. 347, “Stowford, or Stafford, and Boveland (in North Devon), did Philip de Hiwis hold in King Henry II’s time (1154-89), unto whom succeeded three of the name of William. The last Sir William married Jone, daughter and heir of Sir Richard Bauceyn, of Norton Bauceyn, Knt., and had issue, Sir Richard de Hiwys, which married Matild, daughter of Sir Alan Blochou the elder, Knt., and had issue, Sir Richard; he died, A.D., 1297. Sir Richard, his son, married Margaret, daughter of Sir Adam Crete, and had issue by Emeline, daughter of Sir William Botreaux, Sir Richard. The said Sir Richard died, A.D., 1340, and his son

Richard ten years before him. Sir Richard Hiwis the fourth, married Alis, daughter of Sir Ralph Blanchmonster, and had issue, William Hiwis, which died without issue, and Emeline, wife of Sir Robert Tresilian, Chief Justice of England, and after unto Sir John Colshull."

This descent of Hywis had possessions and were also seated at Lansallos and Tremodart in Duloe, Cornwall. On 2nd August, 1319, Dame Matilda de Hiwis, relict of Sir Richard, ob. 1297, obtained from Walter Stapledon, Bishop of Exeter, license for an oratory at Tremodart, in Duloe, and on the 20th May, 1332, Sir Richard de Hywische, Knt., obtained licenses from John Grandison, Bishop of Exeter, for oratories at Rathewell, in Lansallos, and Tremoderet, or Tremodart, in Duloe. Their arms appear to have been *Gules, fretty argent*, with sometimes the addition of a *Canton of the second*.

Pole, further observes, p. 514, "The issue male (of Hiwis) continued unto the latter end of King Edward III's time. The heir general is Copleston, by Hauley and Tresilian. There is not any left of that family; but there is of the name of another family which came out of Somersetshire."

## PEDIGREE.

I.—*Richard de Hywis*, of Lod-Hywis, living in the reign of King John (1199-1216), had issue (1) *Richard de Hywis*, and (2) *John*.

II.—*John de Hywis*, of Lynch, in the parish of Luxborough. He had issue, *John*.

III.—*John de Hywish*, who had a grant of a house and a carucate of land in Doniford, from John Fitzurse, 38 Henry III, 1254. (Contemporaries). Mr. Palmer mentions a Bartholomew de Lod-Hywish and an Andrew of the same name, living in the reign of Henry III. The latter had a daughter who married Andrew de Cottele. He had issue, *Geffry*.

### LOD-HYWISH.

NOTE.—Collinson notes, "The family of Hewish takes its name from Hewish, otherwise Lud-Hewish, in the parish of Nettlecombe, and is descended from John de Hywis, of Linch, in the parish of Luxborough. The descendants of this John lived at Linch, and sometimes at Doniford till the time of Henry IV (1399-1413), when Oliver Hewish, of Doniford, gave his lands at Linch to Richard his younger son, whose posterity settled at Holnicot, in the parish of Selworthy, and were the ancestors of the Steynings of that place." There appears to have been two manors in Nettlecombe with the affix Hywish—Begarn-Hywish, and Lud-Hywish. "The latter, in the time of King John (1199-1216), had owners of the same name, progenitors of the Hewishes of Linch and Doniford. Richard de Hewis, of Hewis, in the time of Henry III (1216-72), was the father of another Richard, who, 17 Edward I (1289), calls himself Richard de Lod-Hywish. At the same time there were Bartholomew and Andrew de Lod-Hywish, the last of whom had a daughter married to Richard de Cottelle."

Begarn-Hywish appears subsequently to have passed into the possession of the Wyndhams, and Lod-Hywish to the Trevelyns.



IV.—**Geffry de Hywys**, living 10 Edward I (1282). He was on the Jury, 2 Edward I, for the hundred of Williton, county of Somerset (*see* Hundred Rolls). He had issue, *John*.

V.—**John de Hywys**, of Lynch and Doniford, 19 Edward II (1326). He had issue (1) *Gilbert de Hywish*; (2) *William de Hywys*, living 3 and 5 Edward III (1330-2), as appears by Fines in the Chapter House, Westminster; (3) *Joan*, married Walter Perceval, second son of Sir Richard Perceval, of Corneville, Knt. A widow in 1387. She conveyed her lands in East Quantock to her brother Gilbert.

NOTE.—There was a family of Percival located at Weston-in-Gordano, Somerset, mentioned in the *Visitations* of that county, “whose ancestors came out of Wales.” Their arms, *Argent, on a chief indented gules, three crosses patée or*.

VI.—**Gilbert de Hywys**, aforesaid was of Doniford and Lynch, 4 Edward III (1331), and by Fine dated 5 Edward III, he with John Durborough and others was witness to a grant made by John Mohun, Lord of Dunster, to that Priory, 15 Edward III (1343).

He married **Alice**, daughter of **SIR JOHN DURBOROUGH**, Knt., and had issue (1) *Oliver*; (2) *Alexander*; (3) *John*. (4) *Agnes*, wife of John de Tetton.

NOTE.—Sir John Hulle (or Hylle) of Kyton, in Holcombe-Rogus, Devon, one of the judges of King's Bench, ob. 24th June, 1408, married as his first wife, Dionysia, daughter of Sir John Durburgh, Knt., and widow of Martin Langdon. She died, 13th October, 1387. Sister probably of Alice Hywish. The Hulles were afterward of Spaxton.

VII.—**Oliver Hywys**, of Doniford and Lynch, 42 and 49 Edward III (1369-76). He married . . . . the daughter and heir of **SIMON DE LA ROCHE**.

NOTE.—2 Edward I (1274), William de la Roche, one of the Jurors of the Hundred of Williton (*see* Hundred Rolls). 32 Edward I (1304), William de la Roche. 2 Edward II (1309), Richard de la Roche. 3 Edward III (1330), Richard de la Roche. Simon de la Roche and Elizabeth his wife. Alice, widow of Richard de la Roche (*see* Fines, Chapter House, Westminster, Somerset.)

In consequence of this marriage the arms of Roche, *Argent*,



on a bend sable, three roaches proper, were taken by him and his posterity instead of the antient bearings of the Hywis's, which had been a chevron between three roundels, and a chevron on a chief three leaves. (Contemporary) 3 and 5 Edward III (1330-2), a William de Hywish (Fines, Chap. H, Westminster, Somerset).

He had issue (1) *John Huyish*; (2) *Richard Huyish*, to whom his father gave Lynch, living 10 Henry V (1423), who had issue *Oliver Hewish*, of Holnicault, in the parish of Selworthy, whose daughter and heiress married John Woode, of North-Tawton, and had issue a daughter (represented by some pedigrees as an heiress) who married William Steynings. Other pedigrees, those of Woode, give her a brother John, ancestor of the Woodes of North Tawton.

NOTE.—There was a family of de la Rupe, or de la Roche, in Devon. Richard de Rupe, or de Roche, held Cotleigh, 27 Henry III (1243), and to him his son Robert, temp. Edward I. Sir Ralph Arundell married Eva, eldest daughter and coheir of Richard de Rupe (Pole). Sir Thomas Archdeacon married Alice, daughter and coheir of Sir Thomas de la Roche, their son John married Cecily, daughter and heir of Jordan de Haccombe. Through this marriage the Carews quarter the arms of this descent of Roche, which are given at *Gules, three roaches in pale naiaint argent*.

Collinson says Simon Raleigh (second son of John Raleigh, of Nettlecombe, by Ismania Hanham, his second wife), a celebrated knight who was at the battle of Agincourt, married secondly Joan, daughter of Oliver Huish, of Doniford. She survived him seventeen years, and 33 Henry VI (1455), completed the endowment of the chantry her husband had founded in Nettlecombe church. John Wood, of North Tawton, married Margaret, daughter and heir of Oliver Hewish, and had issue John, and Maud married to William Steyning.

VIII.—*John Huyish*, of Doniford, 10 Henry VI (1433). He married *Catherine* . . . . and had issue *Oliver*.

NOTE.—John Huyshe was seized of the manor of Lud-Huyshe, and by his deed, dated Tuesday, the Feast of S.S. Peter and Paul, Henry V, he thereby enfeoffed Hugh Cary and others to hold to them and their heirs for ever, to the use of the said John Huyshe and his heirs. And by deed dated 8th May, 8 Henry VI (1430), gave the said manor to John Hyll and Cecyle his wife, remainder to Thomas, son of John Hyll and his heirs, and failing them to the right heirs of John Hyll (*Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica*, Vol iii, second series, page 112). This was John Hyll, of Spaxton (grandson of Sir John Hyll before mentioned), ob. 14th October, 1434, married Cecily, daughter and coheir of John Stourton, of Preston, Somerset, ob. 19th April, 1472.

IX.—*Oliver Hewish*, of Doniford, 30 Henry VI (1455). He married *Johanna*, daughter and coheir of JOHN AVENELL, of Blackpoole, in the parish of Southmolton, in the county of Devon.

NOTE.—The pedigree of Huysh in the *Visitation* of Somerset, and that in Mr. Palmer's MS. in the Dowager Lady Acland's possession at Bath, state that Oliver Huysh married Johanna, daughter and heir of Richards. This appears to be an error arising from a family of Richards, of Somersetshire and Devon, having borne the arms of Avenell. It is probable that they adopted them in consequence of the marriage of their ancestor Edward Richards, with Eleanor, one of the daughters and coheirs of John Avenell, of Loxbeare, in Devon. Edward Richards died, it appears, by inquisition, 10th Oct., 5 Henry VIII (1514).

The statement in the text is in accordance with the old family pedigree found at Sand, which calls her coheir of Avenell with her sisters, wives of Weekes (or Wykes), and Holcombe; and this is corroborated by the pedigrees of Weekes or Wykes, and those of Holcombe, and by the following *Inquisitions post mortem*.

Richard Wykes, of North Wykes, county of Devon, married Elizabeth, daughter and coheir of John Avenell, of Blackpoole. By inquisition taken after the death of his son, William Wykes, who died last day of March, 14 Henry VIII (1523), it appears that he held a third of Blackpoole, under the manor of Warkley.

Roger Holcombe married Margaret, another coheir. By inquisition taken after the death of Margaret Holcombe, who died 7th April, 15 Henry VII (1502), it appears she held a third of Blackpoole of the Bouchiers, Lords of the manor of Warkley. Her son Charles Holcombe died 2nd January, 19 Henry VIII (1528), and also among other lands held a third of Blackpoole.

No positive proof has been found that Johanna, wife of Oliver Huyshe, inherited a third of Blackpoole, as one of the three coheirresses, but Risdon, on Southmolton (p. 307, ed. 1811) says, "Blackpole is a tything of Molton, where Pollard, Gambon, and Huish, held lands; some are of opinion that a

manor divided between coheirs, each of them hath a manor." This shews that the manor of Blackpole was divided into three shares by the marriage of coheiresses, and that one share continued in the name of Huish, after those of Wykes and Holcombe were lost.

Oliver Hewish had issue (1) *Oliver*; (2) *Elizabeth*, wife of John Dodington of Dodington; (3) *Anne*, wife of Alexander Vernie, son by the third wife of John Vernie, of Fairfield, county of Somerset.

NOTE.—The Avenells were a very antient Devonshire family. From Pole we learn that William Avenell married Emma, one of the daughters of Baldwin de Brionis, or de Sap, to whom the Conqueror gave the honour of Okehampton. A Nicholas Avenell held Sheepwash, temp. Henry III (1216-72), and gave for his arms on a seal circumscribed with his name, *three eaglets displayed, two and one*. The main branch was seated at Loxbeare. Galfride de Avenell held Loxbeare, temp. Henry II (1154-89). William Avenill presented to the living in 1285, and John Avenill, "Lord of Lokkesbeare," also in 1401. The family continued there until one of the three ultimate coheiresses married Richards, whose son James was joint holder of the land, temp. Henry VII (1485-1509). They bore for their arms the coat displayed in the third and fourth shields in the window.

The *third* shield in the window at Sand is charged with *argent, five fusils in fess sable, between two cotises gules* (AVENELL of Loxbeare), impaling *argent, a fess between three mens legs, sable* (GAMBON).

This implies that Avenell married a daughter and probably a coheiress of Gambon, and their daughter married Huyshe. The Gambons were of Morystone, or Morestone in Halberton from a remote period. Walter Gambon presented to Bondleigh, 1316-17, and they had property and a residence at Blackpole in Southmolton, where Bishop John Grandison licensed Walter Gambon to have an oratory for the celebration of Divine service there, 15th May, 1332. Walter Gambon, *domicellus* presented to Bondleigh in 1401, and Bishop Stafford licensed John Gambon and Idenia his wife to have an oratory within their mansion of Moorstone in Halberton, 23rd January, 1405-6.

The *fourth* shield in the window, is Huyshe, impaling Avenell.

John Wood, of Asheridge in North Tawton, married Margaret, daughter of Oliver Huish, and had issue John, who married Anne, daughter of William Pollard of Horwood, with further descent (Pole).

In the Somerset *Visitations*, we find William Steyninge of Holnicote, married Maud, daughter of John Wood, and heir to her mother, Margaret, daughter of Oliver Huish, and if so, sister of John Wood the younger.

The *sixth* shield in the window is charged with *Argent, a bat volant, on a chief sable, three pallets of the field* (STEYNINGE), impaling Huyshe.

The *seventh* shield in the window, although much mutilated, is Steyninge, impaling Huyshe, apparently a duplicate of the sixth, and probably bore some heraldic difference on the portion destroyed.

The Dodingtons were of Dodington, near Bridgwater. John Dodington, who married Elizabeth Huyshe, was son and heir of John Dodington, and Mary the daughter of John Payne of Hutton. They were living, 2 Richard III, 1485.

The *fifth* shield in the window is *Sable, three hunting horns argent, stringed and garnished or.* (DODINGTON), impaling Huyshe.

The pedigree of Verney, of Fairfield, in Stoke Courcy, is found in the *Visitations* of Somerset for 1531 and 1573. No Alexander appears or John with three wives, but they matched with Broughton, Gambon, and Sydenham, similar to the Huyshes; their arms, *Argent, three fern leaves in fesse*.

X.—**Oliver Hewish**, of Doniford, 10 Henry VII (1495), married a **Cavendish**, and had issue (1) *John Huyshe*; (2) *Humphrey Hewish*, from whom Huysh first of Sand; (3) *Thomas Huysh*, from whom Huysh of Taunton; and (4) a daughter who married Chichester, of Hawle, in Devon.

NOTE.—The *eighth* shield in the window is charged with Huyshe, impaling, *Sable, three bucks heads argent* (CAVENDISH). Her descent has not been traced.

The *ninth* shield displays *Sable, a chevron or, between three bucks heads argent, attired or*; impaling Huyshe. For a daughter's alliance, the dexter coat being that of Broughton, of Samford-Bickford in Wembdon. Granted in 1591, with crest, *A spaniel sejant ermine*.

Oliver Hewish was Escheator for Somerset, 19 Henry VIII, 1528.

Will of Thomas Broughton, of Sampford-Bickfield, in Wembdon, Esq., dated 20th August, 1579, proved 28th January, 1579-80, mentions his sons Robert, George, Erasmus (he married Joan, daughter of John Haydon, of Devon), and daughter Marie (wife of William Saunders), to be buried at Wembdon, "*in the Alley near unto my seate*." Testator appears to have married thrice, (1) Dorothy, daughter of John Cuffe; (2) Alice, daughter of Robert Corborne, or Cutbert, of Chester; (3) Lucy, daughter of John Welch.

Will of Robert Broughton, his son and heir, of the same place, proved 20th May, 1631. My daughters Jane (wife of James Clarke of Norton Fitzwarren), Elizabeth (wife, first to Wm. Frampton, of Moreton, Dorset, and there buried, aged 43; and second to Thomas Hannam, of Wimborne-Minster, ob. 1652), to be buried at Wembdon, near my wife. She was Gertrude, daughter of Richard Cooper, of Winscombe.

The unnamed daughter probably married a son of Richard Chichester, the first of Hall, by marriage with Thomasine, ob. 1503, daughter of Simon de Hall. The alliance is not mentioned in the *Visitations*.

XI.—**John Hewyshe**, of Doniford, gentleman. His will is dated 24th July, 1551, 5 Edward VI, and proved in the P.C.C. 8th February, 1552. He married **Grace**, daughter of **RICHARD WALROND**, Esq. Her brother, Humphry Walrond, is mentioned in John Hewyshe's will. They had issue—(1) *William*, of whom hereafter; (2) *Roger*, ancestor of Huysh of Aller; (3) *James*, ancestor of Huyshe of London, Sand, and Clyst-hidon, and two daughters; (4) *Dorothy*, married to Edward Hensley, of Devon; (5) *Alice*, married to John Borne.

NOTE.—Richard Walrond was probably a younger son of John Walrond the younger, of Bovy, Devon, whose will was proved 14th May, 1567, by Joan, his relict. To be buried at Seaton; mentions his daughters, Elizabeth and Jane, Edward and John his sons, Richard my youngest son, his brother Humphrey, and cousin Humphrey.

John Hewyshe, by his will—to be buried at St. Decuman's—mentions his eldest daughter, Dorothy, his youngest, Alice Borne; his son Roger to be his executor, and to him "my lease of my tenement in Donyford, which I had of the grant and demise of one John Walton, and afterward confirmed by one Robert Walton, gent., cousin and next heir of the said John Walton."



The Hensley's were of Berrynarbour, in North Devon. John Hensley married Margaret, daughter of Richard Chichester, of Hall, and had issue Edward Hensley.

The *tenth* shield in the Sand window, the dexter coat, which was, doubtless, Huyshe, is destroyed, but the impalement displays *argent, three bulls' heads cabossed sable, eyed and horned argent, a crescent gules for difference* (WALROND, of Bovey).

XII.—William Huyshe, of Doniford, Esq., married first, Ellen, daughter of JOHN GAUNT, of Dorset, Esq., and secondly, Johanna, daughter of JOHN SYDENHAM, Esq. By his first wife he had issue (1) *Sylvester*, of whom hereafter; (2) *John*; (3) *Honora*; (4) *Dorothy*; and by his second; (5) *John Huyshe*, ancestor of Huysh of Wells.

NOTE.—In the Somerset *Visitation*, 1623, Hewish quarters Gaunt (of Dorset, in the *Visitation*, 1573, queried as Graunt of Somerset) *Barry of six or and azure, on a bend engrailed gules, three spear heads or*; and she is there called *Elizabeth*. The crest of Huyshe is given as, *an elephant's head coupé azure bezantée, crowned or*, and the fish in the shield as *argent, finned and tailed, or*.

There was a family named Gaunt or Agaunt, who were located at Nash, in Broadwinsor, Dorset, of which Hutchins says "it was anciently a manor, a member of Marshwood, now a farm." It came to the Coplestones of Shipton-Gorge (a parish near), a branch of the main descent of Coplestone, in Devon, temp. Edw. IV, whose posterity long enjoyed it. 37 Henry VIII, 1546, John Agaunt held this manor, and about 1516-7, Henry VIII, Anthony Beaushin, married Margaret his daughter, but both appear to have been only lessees. John Coplestone, of Nash, son of Nicholas of Shipton-Gorge, 28 Henry VIII, 1537, married Margerie, daughter and coheir of John Gaunt, of Nash. From the *Visitations*, we learn that William Hancock of Combe-Martin, Devon, married Elizabeth, daughter and coheir of John de Gaunt of Lambert's Castle—a high hill with a British encampment on its summit, situate in the neighbouring parish of Hawk church, but no residence there; and George Knolles, of Little-Hempston, Devon, married Elizabeth, daughter and coheir of John Gaunt of Marchwood, Dorset. As these coheirresses had different names, and were living about the same time, it is quite probable they were sisters. The arms given also are the same.

Johanna (or query Dorothy) his second wife, was daughter of John Sydenham, Esq., of Combe, Somerset, ob. 1561, by his wife Elizabeth, daughter of John Frank, of Allerbutler (?), Somerset. He was the son of Edward Sydenham, Esq., by Joan, daughter of Walter Combe, of Combe, which Edward was the son of John Sydenham by the heiress of Collyn, of Culmstock, in Devon. Arms, *Argent, three rams passant sable*.

XIII.—Silvester Huysh, of Doniford, Esq., 18 and 32 Elizabeth (1576-90), married Alice, daughter of WILLIAM NORRIS, of Milverton, Esq., and had issue (1) *William*, of whom hereafter; (2) *Giles*, died 6th July, 1625 (*see* proceedings of suit Wyndham v. Huysh, Court of Wards and Liveries); (3) *Amias*, living 1599; (4) *Elizabeth*, living 1599; (5) *John*, and (6) *James*, also mentioned in Mr. Palmer's MS.



NOTE.—Westcote says: “John Norris of Gibhouse in Winkleigh, Devon, had issue, John of Splate in Somerset, and William of Milverton, who had issue John, Richard, and Sylvester. John Norris, grandson of John of Splate is described of St. Decumans, Somerset.”

Will of William Norrice (Norris) of Milverton, Somerset, dated 9th June (but query January), and proved 2nd November, 1573, by Elizabeth Norrice, the relict (she was daughter of Baker, and testator was buried 20th January, 1573). To Alice my daughter “*my white beare cupp of silver.*” My daughters Elizabeth and Johan. My son-in-law Silvester Huishe. My daughter Huishe. My sons John and Robert, etc.

XIV.—William Huish, of Doniford, Esq. His nuncupative will dated 11th October, 1599; proved 17th October, 1599. By inquisition, taken at Bridgwater, 16th January, 2 James I (1605), it appears he died 16th November, 42 Elizabeth (1600). He married Elizabeth Morgan. Thomas Morgan, of St. George's, Somerset, is the guardian of their son, a minor.

NOTE.—The Morgans were of Easton-in-Gordano, or St. George's; (36 Henry VIII, 1545) Richard Malet, of Enmore, and Joan his wife, sold the manor of Easton to Richard Morgan and his heirs; he died about 1559.

Administration of Richard Morgan (son of the above) of Easton-in-Gordano, granted to Dorothy Morgan his relict, 17th September, 1584.

Will of Dorothy Morgan of St. George's, Somerset, widow, proved 19th June, 1599. To be buried in St George's. Mentions her sons Edward, Richard, Thomas, and Arthur. My son Hewish. My son-in-law, John Nethwaye, and my daughter Ann his wife. Many monuments to them are in Easton church, their arms *sable, three cross-crosslets in bend argent.*

XV.—John Huyshe or Huish, of Doniford, aged seven years at his father's decease. By *inquisitio post mortem*, taken at Sowton, 2nd April, 4 Charles I (1629), it appears he died 2nd November, 3 Charles I (1628). He married Joan, daughter of JOHN MANNINGE, of Hackland, in Cullompton, Devon, by Dorothy, daughter of Sir John Strangeways, of Melbury, Dorset, and Dorothy, daughter of Sir John Thynne, of Longleat, Knt. She had licence to re-marry from the Court of Wards and Liveries, 30th November, 5 Charles I (1630), a liberty she does not appear to have availed herself of, for administration of the effects of Joan Huish was granted 15th April, 1649, by the P.C.C. to her son, Edward Huish. They had issue four sons, viz.:—(1) *John*, (2) *Edward*, (3) *William*, (4) *Lewis*.

NOTE.—There is the will of a *Joan Huish*, of Tuckerton in North Petherton, widow, dated 12th September, 1638; proved 9th February, 1638-9, by Henry

Bidygood. To be buried in West Monkton. My sister, Margaret Bidgegood ; my children, *Margaret, George, and William* ; *Robert*, son of *William Huyshe* ; *Winifred*, daughter of *Roger Huyshe*.

XVI.—**John Huysh** or **Huish**, aged six years, ten months and twenty-seven days at his father's death. He was baptized at St. Decuman's, May, 1621. His will is dated 27th November, 1648, and proved 4th May, 1649. He makes no mention of either wife or issue ; but from a monument at St. Decuman's Church, which is much defaced, it appears probable that he had a wife, **Dorothy**, who was buried 27th April, 164—.

NOTE.—By his will, dated 27th November, 1648, proved 4th May, 1649, by his brother Edward. To be buried in the south aisle of St. Decuman's Church. Mentions his brothers William and Lewis, and twenty shillings to his cousin, Ann Lucas, for a ring.

#### DONIFORD.

Collinson thus describes the descent of Doniford :—"In the time of Henry II (1154—89), Richard Fitzurse granted this manor to William de Reigni, before which grant it had been part of his demesne. In this family of Reigni, who lived at Asholt, in the hundred of Cannington, it continued till 6 Edward II (1313), being held by the service of a whole knight's fee and suit of court twice a year, if required, of the families of Cantilupe and Hastings, lords of the manor of Berwick. 8 Edward II (1315), it was, together with its appurtenances in Watchet and Stogumber, jointly held by Nicholas de Barton, William de Horsli. John Fraunceis, and John Crabbe, as heirs to William de Reigni, who died 5 Edward II (1312). All these shares continued in these families till 42 Edward III (1369), when the part of Fraunceis became the property of Oliver de Hewish."

The old house at Doniford—the cradle of the Huyshe family—which, together with the paternal estate there, this John Huysh, ob. 1648—9, is said to have alienated to the Wyndhams, still exists ; it is of some size, but now modernized to the extinction of almost all its antient features.

The massive oak front door, opening under a somewhat acutely pointed arch, and apparently the oldest relic left, still hangs on its hinges, as solid and firm as when first placed there. Several elliptic arched doorways occur within, and the original walls are of great thickness. The most perfect portion remaining is a transeptal end, extending a little beyond the main front, gabled, and with two stone-mullioned and labelled windows of some size (similar to that found at Sand) of early seventeenth century date. This part is now used as a cellar, but one of the old chambers within exhibits an ornamental stuccoed cornice continued across the central beam. There are no arms, initials, or date discoverable. Doniford is pleasantly situate about a mile east of Watchet and close on the sea shore.

The monument to John Huysh, noted in the pedigree as having existed in the parish church of St. Decuman's, has now totally disappeared, and no trace of it discoverable after careful search.

The record on Edward Huish's gravestone at St. Cuthbert's, that "*he departed this life here at Wells*" and was there buried, appears to confirm the information that it was his brother, John Huysh, who disposed of Doniford, which had been held by the family for nearly three centuries.

XVII.—**Edward Huish**, of Doniford, Esq., baptized at St. Decuman's, December, 1622 ; buried at St. Cuthbert's, Wells, where his monument, a flat stone in the south aisle,

yet remains. He died 16th August, and was buried the 19th, 1669. The arms on the stone are Huysh, impaling, *a chevron between three mullets pierced.*

NOTE.—The flat stone still exists in the south aisle of St. Cuthbert's, but exceedingly worn and frayed, and it was with the utmost difficulty the following portion of the inscription could be recovered :—

*“ Here resteth the body of Edward Hvish, of Doniford,  
Esq., who departed this life here at Wells the (16) day of  
August, 1669.*

*. . . . . to live with me,  
And I not good enough to dye with thee.*

*Behold thy life by me,  
Who sometime was as thov,  
And thov in time shalt be,  
Bvt dvst as I am now.”*

Above the inscription is an hour-glass, etc., and faint traces of the shield bearing Huish, impaling *a chevron between three mullets, or cinquefoils.* At the base of the stone another and apparently later inscription has been cut, but too denuded to be made out. There is a mournful cadence apparent in the inscription and epitaph, which seems to point to the adverse fate then awaiting this, the main stem of Huyshe, not only by the disposal of the family patrimony, but its extinction also on the deaths of his two brothers, William and Lewis, of whom no further particulars are recorded.

The impalement on the gravestone is similar to that of Sambourne, of Timsbury—*argent, a chevron sable, between three mullets gules, pierced or.*

XVIII.—**William Huish**, baptized March, 1623, at St. Decuman's. According to Mr. Palmer, he it was who sold the family estate to the Wyndhams in 1671. But this is certainly a mistake, for, according to the late Mr. Tripp, Lord Egremont's steward, the Wyndham title shews that *John* was the man who alienated the old paternal property.

XIX.—**Lewis Huish.**

## Huyshe ;

FIRST POSSESSOR OF SAND, IN SIDBURY, DEVON.

I.—**Humphrey Hewish**, or **Huysh**, second son of Oliver Hewish, of Doniford, married **Jacquet**, daughter and coheir of **JOHN HAWLE**, of High-Bray, in the parish of Southmolton, Devon, and had issue (1) *Henry Hewish*, of whom hereafter ; (2) *John Huish*, of Okeford, Devon. Will dated 12th March,

31 Elizabeth (1589), proved at Barnstaple, May, 1589. He married *Wilmot*, daughter of *Roger Prescott, Esq.*, and relict of Gregory Radford, of Okeford, Esq. Will dated 17th January, 1604, and proved at Barnstaple, 6th March, 1604. He died without issue. (3) *Bartholomew Huishe*, of Studley, Devon, gentleman. Will dated 4th May, 1578, and proved at Barnstaple, 9th June, same year. He had no issue by *Mary*, his wife, who was relict of *Veysie*. (4) *John Huyshe*, who died unmarried.

NOTE.—High-Bray is a distinct parish in North Devon. Hall is in the parish of Bishops-Tawton, “where the name of Hall had formerly their residence, but Simon de Halle, a man learned in the laws, procured this his ancestor’s dwelling to be his inheritance, and left it unto Thomasine, his daughter, wife of Richard Chichester, third son of Richard Chichester, of Raleigh.”—(Pole).

Gregory Radford, of Oakford, in North Devon (son of Richard Radford, of Oakford, and Joan, daughter of . . . Hill, *alias* Spurway), married Wilmot, daughter of Roger Prescott, and by her had two sons—Richard, buried 1569, and John, buried 1622.

II.—*Henry Hewish*, or *Huysh*, aforesaid, purchased the estate and dwelling of Sand, in the parish of Sidbury, Devon, in 1560-1. By inquisition taken at Tiverton it appears that he died 21st January previous. He was buried at Sidbury, 21st January, 1566. He married *Ellen*, daughter of JOHN STAVELEY, of East Buckland, in the county of Devon, Esq., by *Joan*, daughter and coheir of *John Lapflode*. She was buried at Sidbury, 27th May, 1592. He had issue, three sons and five daughters: (1) *Thomas*; (2) *Anthony*, of both of whom hereafter; (3) *William Hewish*, Rector of Kilckhampton, in Cornwall. Will dated 5th January, 1610, proved in the Bishop of Exeter’s Court, 4th May, 1611. He married *Joan*, daughter of *William Perrie*, and relict of Osborne, by whom he had issue two daughters, *Elizabeth*, wife of *William Weston*, and *Nazar*, wife of *George Lippincott*, of Wibbery, Devon. (4) *Ellen*, wife of *Richard Cooke, Esq.*, who had issue, *Mary* and *Ellen*. (5) *Joan*, wife of *William Stoford*, of Ottery St. Mary, and had issue. (6) *Elizabeth*, died without issue, first married *Peter Drayton*, of Exeter (Schoolmaster), secondly *John Doughtie*, incumbent of Alphington. (7) *Grace*, married



William Norreys, of Lyme, and had issue. (8) Jane, married Richard Bevys, of Exeter, and had issue. From her descend the Bevys, of Clist House, Dartmouth, and Barnstaple. Mr. Westcote, in his pedigree of Devon families, No. 2297, MSS. Harley, says she married secondly William Martin, Recorder of Exeter.

# SAND I.

NOTE.—The descent of the manor of Sand is thus stated by Pole. It was granted about Henry II's time (1216-72), by the Dean and Chapter of Exeter, to William and Deodatus de Sand, from whom divers descents proceeded. In the reign of Henry V (1413-22), Roger Tremayle had Over-Sand. To Roger Tremayle and Margaret his wife, Bishop Stafford granted license for an oratory in their house at Over-Sand, Sidbury, 25th January, 1418-19.

To him succeeded John, and to him Sir Thomas Tremayle, a Justice of the Common Pleas, temp. Henry VII. Philip his son succeeded, who married Jane, daughter of Nicholas Whiting, of Combe, in the adjoining parish of Gittisham. They left a daughter Florence, married to Nicholas Ashley, and it is probable from her, or her representatives, that Henry Huyshe purchased Sand.

Sir Thomas Tremayle was knighted at the marriage of Prince Arthur, in 1501. He bore for his arms, quarterly, (1) *A fess between three brogues*, (2) Trivett, (3) *A chevron between three escallops argent* (FARWAY).

The first shield of the series of twelve displayed in the hall windows at Sand is charged with Tremayle, *argent, a fess between three brogues (shoes) gules*.

The adjoining manor of Stone, in Sidford, was held by the family of Trivett. From the same source (Pole) we learn that Roger Tremayle (as above) married Margaret, daughter of John Trivett and Joan Farway, Joan her sister (?), to whom the manor fell, married Roger Pym. John Trivett was the son of Peter, "who had a great part thereof," in King Edward III's time. The Pym held it for several generations, ultimately disposing of it to Periam, of Exeter. The Somerset Visitation, 1531-73, gives Peter Trivett, of Chilton-Trivett, in Cannington, married Joan Farway, to him John, of Sidbury (a younger branch of Trivett of Durborough, *Collinson*), and to him Peter, ob. s.p., and his sister and heir married Roger Pym. The arms of Trivett (*argent*) *a trivet (sable)*, apparently, super-imposed by the arms of Pym (*argent*) *an annulet (sable)*, appear in a shield on a boss in the roof of the nave of Sidbury church.

Harcombe, another manor in Sidbury, was, according to Pole, "the inheritance of William de Harcombe, temp. Edward I, and after, at the latter end of King Edward III, Ralph Lapfode (of Lapfode, in Bridford) was owner thereof, which left issue Jane, wife of John Staveley, and Sibil, wife of John Halse. This land fell unto Staveley by partition, and Bartholomew Staveley sold the same, and Rowland Huysh, of Sand, Esquire, hath bought a good part thereof and enlarged his demesnes."

Ellen Staveley, the wife of Henry Huysh, was the grand-daughter and coheir of John Lapfode—Bartholomew Staveley was her brother.

The arms of Lapfode, *gules, a chevron between three goats' heads erased argent, armed or*, are on a shield in the windows of the hall at Sand, second in the series, thus with that of Tremayle, indicating the acquisition of both manors of Sand and Harcombe by Huyshe. The arms of Staveley do not appear.

Nazar, or Nazareth Huish, second daughter of the Rev. William Huish, of Kilkhampton, married first George Lippincott, of Barnstaple, ob. 7th December, 1624, and secondly, in 1635, William Fauntleroy, of Fauntleroy Marsh, Dorset.

Richard Cooke, probably of Thorne, near Ottery. The Stowfords of Ottery were a younger branch of that family settled there. R. Norris, merchant, Mayor of Lyme-Regis, 1597.



John Doughty, B.D., was Rector of Alphington, 1593—1637-8; patron William Bouchier, Earl of Bath. Richard Bevis, of Exeter, husband of Jane Huish, was Sheriff 1591, Receiver 1592, Mayor 1602. He died during his Mayoralty, 26th August, 1602. On a flat stone in St. Mary-Arches Church, Exeter, is:—

*"Here lyeth the body of Richard Bevis . . . . who died Maior of this Cittie, and was buried . . . . of August, 1602. My habitation is in heaven."*

William Martin (a descendant of the Martins of Athelhampton, Dorset), second husband of Jane Huish, was elected Mayor for the residue of the year. He was Steward 1571, Receiver 1583, Sheriff 1584, Mayor 1590 and 1602, Recorder 1605. He was buried 12th April, 1617, at St. Petrock's, Exeter.

In St. Mary-Arches, Exeter, on a flat stone:—

*"Here lyeth Jane Bevis who was secondly married to William Martyn (the Recorder of this Cittie) obiit . . . . 16 . . ."*

The worthy Recorder appears to have taken to himself the wife, as well as the office of the deceased Mayor. He was Recorder of Exeter, and a learned historian. His biography is given in *Princes' Worthies*. Jane Bevis was his second wife.

On a further partially obliterated stone—

*" . . . . . widow of John Marshsall, Esq., and daughter of Richard Beavis, Esq., died 7th January, 1630."*

John Marshall was Mayor of Exeter in 1615.

Peter Beavis, Esq., Sheriff of Devon, 1653, the son probably of Richard Beavis and Jane Huish, purchased the manor and manor house of Bishop's-Clyst, in the parish of Sowton, from the Earl of Bedford. He died 27th October, 1656, and was buried at Sowton. His descendants continued to reside there until the death of Miss Ellery Beavis in 1801, when the estate was disposed of to Thomas, Lord Graves. Their arms were:—*Azure, three close helmets in profile argent, garnished or.*

In the handsome oak-panelled bedroom at Sand, a portion of the head-board and some carved figures, being parts of an old bedstead, have been preserved and affixed to the panelling. On it is inscribed

#### H. HVYSHE.—E. HVYSHE.

Apparently for Henry Huyshe, ob. 1566, who first purchased Sand, and his wife Ellen Stavely. This room has Ionic pilasters and a richly carved cornice, the consoles with lion's heads. A lion sejant, sits on the newel-post of the old circular solid oak-stepped staircase—there is a finely carved oak screen that separates the hall from the front passage; and an interesting old cupboard with lockers, the doors ornamented with the linen pattern, and coeval with the building of the house, is preserved. An immense crocodile hangs sprawling against the passage wall; the skull of an elk with huge horns, and another of a red-deer are affixed to the carved hall skreen, all evidently of great age of preservation. Relics of the period, when the olden owners of Sand had residence here; which appears to have ceased at the death of James Huyshe who died in 1724.

III.—**Thomas Huish**, aforesaid, he was of Axminster, gentleman, 9th August, 39 Elizabeth, 1596, and died without issue. He, together with his brother, Anthony, sold the two estates of Higher and Lower Sand to their cousin, James Huish, of London, 26 Elizabeth, 1583-4.

IV.—**Anthony Hewish**, aforesaid, was of Axminster: will dated 17th June, 1598, and proved in the P.C.C. 5th December. He married **Alice**, daughter of **TURNER**, and relict of **Alexander Osborne**. Administration of the effects of **Alice Hewishe**, of Axminster, was granted in September, 1612, by the Archdeacon of Exeter's Court, but owing to the careless manner in which these records have been kept, the document is not to be found. They had issue **Henry**.

V.—**Henry Hewish**, married **Marcella**, eldest daughter and coheir of **WILLIAM SYMONDS**, of Exeter. She was twice married afterwards; to **Richard Herbert**, of Exeter, and to **Thomas Duke**, of Exeter, who died 14th November, 1644. She was buried in Salcombe Church, 3rd April, 1657. Her will was proved in P.C.C., 10th December, 1657. They had issue **Southcott**.

NOTE.—**William Simonds**, of Exeter (son of **Thomas Simonds**, of Taunton, Somerset), married **Alice**, daughter of . . . **Moore**, of Bamton (Bothenhampton?), in Dorset. There were three daughters coheiresses, **Marcella**, the eldest, then wife of **Richard Herbert**, of Exeter (*Visitation*, 1620). Arms of **Simonds**—*Per fess dancettée gules and argent, a pale counterchanged, three trefoils one and two slipped of the first.*

VI.—**Southcott Huish**, of Exeter, who died unmarried. Administration of his effects was granted by the P.C.C. to his mother **Marcella Duke**, 18th June, 1642.

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## Huysh,

OF TAUNTON, SOMERSET.

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I.—**Thomas Huysh**, third son of **Oliver Hewish**, of Doniford, was, according to the family pedigree found at Sand, the ancestor of the **Huyshe**s, of Tetton, in the parish of Kingston, and of "*thos other Huyshe*s about Taunton, and so of **Richard Huyshe** who lyeth buried in Taunton." There seems no reason for doubting the truth of this statement. **Richard Huyshe's**

will proves his affinity to the Huysh's of Doniford and Sand, and the rest of the pedigree is confirmed by substantial evidence. The above named

II.—**Richard Huyshe**, was of New Inn in 1589. He died without issue, and bequeathed his property in the Black Friars, London, and in Taunton, to trustees for the maintenance of an Alms House in Taunton, for aged men, with preference to any poor among his kindred, and for exhibitions at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge to young men of his name and kindred only, and in default of these, to young men born in the counties of Somerset and Devon. The full particulars of this charity are to be found in Vol. V. of the Charity Commissioners Reports. The privileges thus attached to his kindred make it an act of justice to record all that can be gathered respecting his connexions. But no connected pedigree of this branch of the family appears ever to have been formed, and those interested in the enquiry must be referred to the collections deposited in the Alms House by the Rev. Francis Huyshe, and to some MSS. recently added to the library of the College of Arms, where the result of an examination of wills and parish registers will be found. Richard Huysh married **Ebhot**, daughter of **WILLIAM LOVEL**, of Bishops-Lydiard, in Somerset, Esq., and heir to her brother John Lovel. She was relict of James Clarke, of Norton Fitzwarren, Esq. Her will, where she is described as of Norton Fitzwarren, was proved in the Archdeacon's Court, Taunton, in 1628, but is lost. Richard Huysh died 23rd Feb., 1615, and was buried in St. Mary Magdalen, Taunton, on 21st March following. A tablet to his memory with the arms of Huysh and Avenell quarterly is fixed on the wall of the south aisle of that church. By inquisition taken 14th July, 18 James I (1621), it appears his next heirs were *Johanna*, wife of John Mounsteven; *Margaret*, wife of Henry Webber; and *Thomazine*, wife of John Cox—she being the daughter and coheir of *John Huish*, son and heir of *Richard Huish*, son

and heir of *Robert Huish*, brother of his father *Thomas Huish*.

This Thomas and Robert Huish must have been sons of Thomas Huish, third son of Oliver Hewish, and Thomas is probably the Thomas Huysh buried in St. Mary Magdalen, Taunton, 12th March, 1556, and Robert is probably the Robert Huish whose will dated 28th November, 1558, was proved in the Archdeacon's Court by his son Richard Huish.

NOTE.—Will of John Bond, of Taunton, gent., dated 14th June, 1612.—“I have sold to Mr. Richard Huishe, of London, certain houses in Magdalyn Lane, for a Hospital.”

The testator was evidently the “learned John Bond, A.M.,” born at Trull in 1550, and who, according to Collinson, in 1579, was elected Master of the Free School in Taunton. “He was educated at Winchester, and in 1569 entered as student at New College, in Oxford, where he was highly esteemed for his classical learning. He continued in the Mastership many years, and thence sent into the world many eminent scholars. At length he turned his thoughts to the study of physick, which after relinquishing his former employment, he practised with much reputation. He died 3rd August, 1612, and was buried in chancel of the church of St. Mary Magdalen, with the following inscription:—

*Qui medicus doctus, prudentis nomine clarus,  
Eloquii splendor, Pieridumque decus.  
Virtutis cultor, pietatis vixit amicus,  
Hoc jacet in tumulo, spiritus alta tenet.”*

The fine character of a man

*Who was a learned physician, renowned by name for his skill,  
Celebrated for oratory, and the ornament of the Muses.  
A cultivator of virtue, he lived the friend of piety;  
He lies in this tomb, but his spirit occupies the heights above.*

The gravestone to his memory has disappeared. Gilbert Sheldon, Archbishop of Canterbury, was one of his scholars. He does not appear to have been formally admitted a physician by diploma. He wrote several classical works.

These worthy men, Richard Huish and John Bond, were doubtless friends, in sympathy with each other in good works, and three years only parted their deaths.

Will of Richard Huish, of the precincts of the Blackfriars, London, dated 30th January, 1615. To be buried in the south aisle of St. Mary Magdalen's, Taunton, with some memorial over me. A Hospital to be built for 13 poor men—President of the same to be appointed by such of my name as shall be heirs male of the house of Huyshe, now of Doniford, Somerset, and of Sand, in Sidbury, Devon. Rowland Huish, of Sand, one of the Governors, to be my Ex'or.

The monument to the memory of Richard Huyshe in St. Mary Magdalen's, Taunton, contains this inscription—

*Here under lyeth buried the body of Richard Huish, esquire, borne in Taunton, and aunciently descended of the familie of the Huysshes of Doniford, in the countie of Somerset.*

*He founded the hospital in Mawdelyn-lane in Taunton, for thirteene poor men, begonne by himself in his life-tyme, and finished by his executors after his death. And for the reliefe of the said poore men, he gave by his last will, one hundred and three pounds by the yeare for ever, yssuing out of certain howses and tenements in the Black-Fryars, London.*



*And also, by his sayd will he gave one hundred pounds a yeaere for ever, owt of the sayd tenements, for the maintainance of fyve schollars of his name of Huysh and Kindred, at one or both of the Universitys of Oxford or Cambridge: and dyed in the true fayth of Christ-Jesus, the 23rd day of Feb., A'no Dom'. 1615.*

These further wills relate apparently to the Taunton branch of the Huyshe. Will of Robert Huish, of Taunton, Somerset, gent., dated 5th September, and proved 8th December, 1635. To be buried in the Chancel. Toward the repairs of the organ, 40/- To the Lady Ann Portman, of Orchard, a ring of 30/-, and the same to Robert Cuffe, Esq., and to Mary Hill, my daughter. To my son, Alexander Hill, my Ex'or, £5. Robert Browne, of Taunton Castle, Esq., overseer.

The Hills were of Poundisford Park, near Taunton.

Will of Robert Huish, of Luckham, Somerset, yeoman, dated 28th January, 1646; proved 29th May, 1647, by Edith Huish, relict. Mentions John and Robert, the sons of my brother, John Huish. Jone Huish, widow. John Doddington, my son-in-law. My brother-in-law, Matthew Herring, of Dulverton.

Nuncupative will of Mary Huish, of Taunton St. James, Somerset, spinster, 15th July, 1650; proved 14th September, 1650, by Jane Huish. Mentions her mother, Marie; the children of her uncle, Mark Huish; Agnes, wife of John Cole.

## Huish,

OF NOTTINGHAM.

IN this family there is a tradition that their ancestor having joined in Monmouth's rebellion, fled instantly after the battle of Sedgmoor, and that to escape the punishments inflicted by Judge Jefferys on the adherents of the Duke's cause, he altogether quitted his native place, Taunton, and settled at Leicester. The arms of Huish and Avenell have been borne quarterly by this family, and they possess a bible of the date, 1676, with the name "*Elizabeth Huish, Taunton, Somersetshire,*" on the binding. These traditions coupled with the coincidence of the rather uncommon Christian name of Mark recurring with that of Robert at that precise period, afford the strongest grounds for believing them to be of the same race.

*Mark Huish*, of St. James's, Taunton, whose will was proved in 1651, had issue a *Robert Huish* and a *Mark Huish*, the



latter baptized 14th November, 1630 ; *Robert Huish* had a son *Mark* baptized 18th June, 1654, born 25th May ; and a son *Robert* baptized 1659. Future enquiries may decide whether either of these was the Robert Huish, of Leicester, who follows.

I.—*Robert Huish*, or *Hewish*, as it is sometimes spelled in the *Registers* of St. Martin's and St. Nicholas, Leicester ; he and his wife Sarah were living in 1729. He was married to *Sarah Cooke*, at St. Nicholas, Leicester, 30th April, 1693.

They had issue (1) *Robert* ; (2) *Mark Hewish*, baptized at St. Martin's, 20th January, 1695, buried at St. Nicholas's, 1729. Will proved at York, 11th February, 1729. (3) *John Hewish*, died and buried September 1700, in St. Martin's Leicester. (4) *Elizabeth*, baptized 15th September, 1697, at St. Martin's, married 5th October, 1720, to John Weston, son of Richard Weston, of Leicester, Alderman.

II.—*Robert Huish* aforesaid, baptized at St. Martin's, Leicester, 4th March, 1694. He removed to Nottingham, of which town he was Sheriff in 1736 ; Alderman in 1759 ; and Mayor in 1760. He was buried in St. Nicholas, Nottingham. Will proved at York, 23rd December, 1765, and in P.C.C., 5th June, 1765. Married at Hugglescote, *Alice*, daughter of RICHARD WESTON, an Alderman of Leicester, and sister of John Weston before mentioned, buried in St. Nicholas, Nottingham. By her who survived him he had issue (1) *Robert*, unmarried, drowned on his passage to Guernsey ; (2) *Mark*, of whom hereafter ; (3) *Elizabeth*, wife of Nathaniel Denison, of Dayhook, Notts, died in 1811, aged 90, leaving issue ; (4) *Alice*, wife of John Davison, of Leicester, M.D., and had issue ; (5) *Mary*, wife of Sir Robert Bewicke, of Close House, Northumberland, Knt., and had issue ; (6) *Anne*, who died unmarried.

III.—*Mark Huish*, of Nottingham, baptized 16th December, 1725, married at St. Philip's, Birmingham, 13th December, 1774, *Margaret*, daughter of CHARLES STUART, of Birming-

ham. She was born in 1752, and died 24th April, 1822. Mr. Huish died 9th June, 1807, and was buried at St. Nicholas, Nottingham. They had issue (1) *Mark*, of whom hereafter. (2) *Robert*, author of *The History of Bees*, and various other works. He married at St. George's, Southwark, 23rd August, 1805, *Maria Petty*, daughter of Robert Greening, Esq., of H.M. Customs. They have issue, *Robert*, born 16th June, 1811; *John*, born 14th January, 1814; *Calverly*, born 26th October, 1821; *Margaret Eliza*, born 11th May, 1806; *Harriet Maria*, born 5th December, 1807. (3) *John*, born 14th July, 1780, died October 1823, buried at Sneinton, Notts; married at Willoughby, in the county of Leicester, in 1809. *Mary*, daughter of Henry Norton Gamble, of Willoughby, Capt. R.N. She died 30th April, 1825. They had issue, *John*, born 17th March, 1813, now of Derby, solicitor; *Marcus*, born 19th July, 1815; *Mary*, born 5th June, 1809, died 3rd October, 1821; *Margaret*, born 27th October, 1810; *Anne Caroline*, born 19th September, 1817; *Eliza*, born 8th March, 1812. (4) *Calverly*, of Liverpool, merchant, born 15th July, 1786, married 26th May, 1809, *Harriet*, daughter of John Youle, of Nottingham, Esq., they have issue, *Calverly*, born 27th April, 1817, died 18th September, 1818; *Harriet*, born 14th January, 1813; *Margaret Anne*, born 10th July, 1819. (5) *William*, Lieutenant 6th Regiment Dragoons Carabineers, born 1787, married at Manchester *Mary Anne Taylor*, died 3rd June, 1822, buried at Newington Butts. (6) *Eliza*, wife of Francis Hart, of Nottingham, banker, born 1782, married at St. Peter's, Nottingham, 1809, issue, *Eliza*, born 1810; *Frank*, born 1816, died 26th April, 1836. (7) *Margaret*, born 1777, wife of J. B. Smith, Esq., of Newark. He died 1807, married 9th November, 1806. Now of Bridgend House, Nottingham. Issue, *Joseph*, born 1807, died 23rd July, 1823.

IV.—*Mark Huish*, born 1st March, 1776, died 14th January, 1833, and buried at St. Nicholas, Nottingham. A Deputy Lieutenant for Nottinghamshire. Married at Work-

sop, 5th August, 1799, *Eliza*, daughter of JOHN GAINSFORD, of Worksop, Esq. She died in 1824. They had issue (1) *Mark*; (2) *Henry*, died 1831; (3) *Eliza*, born 27th July, 1800; (4) *Margaret*; (5) *Mary*; (6) *Stuart*—these all died young.

V.—*Mark Huish*, born 9th March, 1803, now (1837) a Captain in the 74th Regiment Bengal Native Infantry.

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## Huyshe,

OF WELLS, SOMERSET.

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ACCORDING to Mr. Palmer's MS. John Huyshe, son of William Huyshe of Doniford by his second wife, was father of the eminent divine Alexander Huish.

I.—*Alexander Huish*. He was born in the parish of St. Cuthbert's, at Wells. His birth appears to have been about the year 1594, for according to his own testimony (*vide* Greek Hymn in the Polyglot) he was sixty-three years of age in 1658. He was a Commoner of Magdalen Hall, Oxford, in 1609; B.A., 10th February, 1613; original scholar of Wadham College, 20th April, 1613; M.A., 17th December, 1616; B.D., 2nd December, 1627. Presented to the Rectory of Beckington, Somerset, in 1627, and to that of Hornblotton in the same county by Thomas Milbourne, Esq., in February, 1638. Of this living he was dispossessed in 1650, but restored to it in 1660, and 12th September same year, he was collated to the Prebend of White Lackington, in Wells Cathedral, of which he had the gift before the Rebellion. He died 15th April, 1668, and was buried in the chancel of Beckington, where a brief inscription was placed to his memory, which has been copied by Collinson in his *History of Somerset*. His will was proved on 6th June, 1668, in the P.C.C., by his relict Deborah, who was his second wife. In the preface, he shortly but earnestly expresses his thankfulness to God, for his restoration to his living.

He was a man distinguished for theological learning, accurate criticism, knowledge of languages, especially the oriental tongues, sound divinity, and excellence in preaching, and he was much celebrated among the learned throughout Europe. The prominent part he took in the preparation of Walton's *Polyglot Bible*, is gratefully acknowledged by Walton himself, and subsequent critics have mentioned with praise, the accuracy and fidelity with which he executed his celebrated *Collation* of the Alexandrian MS. of the Bible.

His sufferings during the Rebellion are evidence of more than common attachment to the King, and of his exertions in his cause. He was driven from one place to another, imprisoned for a few days at Chadfield, in Wilts, where he narrowly escaped starvation, having been saved from perishing by the pious but accidental care of some charitable persons, and finally in 1650, was dispossessed of his living. By the Royalist composition papers (in the State Paper Office), it appears the value of his estate was £40, on which a fine, £13 6s. 8d., was imposed.

His writings are *Musa Ruralis in Advent*, Car. II, 4to., London, 1660; *Lectures on the Lords Prayer, in Three Parts*, London, 1626. The notes of John Flavel having come into his possession, he published them under the title of *Tractatus de Demonstratione Methodicus et Polemicus*, Oxon., 1619.

He was twice married. By **Margaret**, his first wife, who was buried at Beckington, 4th October, 1642 (1) *Alexander*, of whom hereafter; (2) *James*, baptized 29th October, 1637, living 1667; (3) *Margaret*, wife of Thomas Milbourne, of London, printer, who had issue. By **Deborah**, the relict of Bryant, whose will was proved in the P.C.C., 3rd June, 1671, he had issue (1) *Anne*, baptized 29th February, 1643, living 1671; (2) *Deborah*, baptized 2nd May, 1645, buried January, 1645; (3) *Dorothy*, co-executrix with Anne of their mother's will.

NOTE.—On a flat stone in Beckington Church (Collinson) :—

“*Sub hoc saxo reconditum jacet corpus Alexandri Huish hujus ecclesie olim rectoris, qui obiit decimo quinto die Aprilis, MDCLXVIII.*”

Walton's *Polyglot Bible* and the *Lexicon* is thus described :—

“*BIBLIA SACRA POLYGLOTTA, complectentia Textus Originales, Hebraicum (cum Pentateucho Samaritano) Chaldaicum, Graecum Versionumque Antiquarum, Samaritanae, Graecae LXXII Interpretum, Chaldaicae, Syriacae, Arabicae, Aethopicae, Vulgatae Latinae, cum omnium Translationibus Latinis et Apparatu, Appendicibus, Tabulis, etc., edidit BRIANUS WALTONUS, 1657. CASTELLI, LEXICON HEPTAGLOTTON, Heb., Chald., Syr., Samar., Aethiop., Arab., et Pers., cum omnium Grammaticis, 1686.*

Six volumes folio of the *Polyglot* and two of the *Lexicon*—they contain portraits of Walton and Castell, and illustrations by Hollar—priced in a recent bookseller's catalogue at fourteen guineas.

II.—Alexander Huish aforesaid, baptized 6th December, 1632. By his wife Dorothy, who was buried at Beckington, 8th August, 1656, he had issue (1) *Alexander*, baptized 21st August, 1673; (2) *Anthony*, baptized 16th June, 1676; (3) *James*, baptized 31st August, and buried 15th March, 1681; (4) *Sarah*, baptized 6th October, 1669, living 1670.

I.—Edward Huish, of Wells, Notary Public, will dated 4th March, 1623, and proved P.C.C., 14th June, 1624, buried at St. Cuthbert's, 25th March, 1624. By his will he appears to have been twice married. The marriage ring of his first wife he leaves to his son James. His second wife who survived him was named Christian. He had issue (1) *James*, of whom below; (2) *Alexander*; (3) *Anthony*; (4) *Edward*, living 1624-38; (5) *Peternell*, married at St. Cuthbert's, 14th November, 1625, to Thomas Lowe, and she was living in 1638.

NOTE.—The occurrence of a daughter, Petronell, and of a son, Alexander, at the same time, in two distinct families of Huyshe, settled in the parish of St. Cuthbert's, seems so highly improbable, that little or no doubt can be entertained that the learned assistant of Walton was the Alexander here mentioned as the brother of James, and of Petronella Rouse, widow, in Alexander's will, being the Petronell, who is here said to have married Thomas Lowe, in November 16th, 1625.

There is certainly, *primâ facie*, a strong objection to the



hypothesis of this James being brother of Alexander, Walton's assistant, from the proof that *Edward* was the father of James, but that *John*, son of William Huish, of Doniford, as stated above, to be the father of Alexander.

This however rests solely on the authority of Mr. Palmer's MS., where he probably had no document to depend upon. Mr. Palmer may have mistaken John for Edward, or he may have omitted a generation in his pedigree, and so if there were this *John* the son of William of Doniford, he may have been the grandfather of James and Walton's assistant.

NOTE.—By his will he appears to have had another daughter, *Jane*. His second wife and executrix was *Christian*, daughter of *Anthony Godwin*, of Wookey, Somerset. She remarried *Adrian Bower*. Died in 1640, and was buried at Brightwell, Berks.

2.—*James Huish*, aforesaid, Notary Public, and Registrar to five Bishops of Bath and Wells. He died 10th February, 1639, aged 47, and was buried in the south aisle of the Cathedral, where a flat stone to the memory of him, his wife, and daughter, still remains. His will was proved P.C.C., 9th April, 1640, and in it he mentions his brothers, the three sons of his father above named. *Sarah*, his relict married secondly John Prickman, gentleman, and died 27th May, 1670, aged 73. They had issue (1) *Edward*, baptized 3rd January, 1634; (2) *James*, baptized 1st November, 1637, probably the same as buried in the Cathedral, 10th August, 1675; (3) *Christian*, baptized 28th November, 1622; (4) *Martha*, baptized 26th December, 1623, dead in 1684; (5) *Hester*, baptized 8th April, 1625, query if same as buried 30th May following; (6) *Bridget*, baptized 15th June, 1626; (7) *Sarah*, baptized 7th December, 1628, died 23rd January, 1694-5, in the sixty-sixth year of her age, her will proved in the Bishop's Court, Wells, in 1695; (8) *Mary*, wife of Broderick, had issue George Broderick, living 1684.

There are now at Wells (1837) a poor family of Huishe, who have lived in St. Cuthbert's parish, and are descended from a Henry Huish of Warminster and Hillhouse, who died

in 1726. A widow Huish, of Hillhouse, was buried 26th September, 1610.

NOTE.—Around the edge of a flat stone in the south choir aisle of Wells Cathedral :—

*“Depositum Jacobi Huish notarii publici quinque hujus diœceses episcoporum registrarîi qui annum ætatis quadragesimum septimum agens obiit decimo die Februarii Anno Domini millesimo sexcentesimo tricesimo nono.”*

In the centre of the stone :—

*“Hic etiam sepulta est Sara primum præd' d'ni Huish dein d'ni Joh'is Prickman gen' uxor, quæ obiit 27<sup>o</sup> Maii anno D'ni, 1674. Aetat' suæ 73. Hic etiam jacet Sara Huish filia d'orum Jacobi et Saræ, quæ obiit 23<sup>o</sup> die Jan'rij anno D'ni 1694, ætatis suæ 66<sup>o</sup>”*

From the Cathedral Register—*Burials*—1674, May 27, Mrs. Sarah Prickman, widow of Mr. John Prickman. 1694, February 1, Mrs. Sarah Huish. From St. Cuthbert's Parish Register—*Baptisms*—1620, January 29, Maud; 1626, June 15, Bridget; 1627, November 1, James; 1632, March 20, Frances; 1634, January 8, Edward—the children of Mr. James and Sarah Huishe (Jewers).

On a monument in the cloisters of Wells Cathedral, to William Taylor, Esq., ob. 13th August, 1776, and Catherine his wife, ob. 6th January, 1764, the arms are, *Ermine on a chief indented sable, three escallops or*, for Taylor, quarterly, with Huyshe.

## Huyshe,

OF ALLER, SOMERSET.

I.—Roger Huish, second son of John Hewyshe, of Doniford, and Grace Walrond had issue (1) *William*; (2) *Grace*; (3) *Elizabeth*.

II.—William Huyshe, of Aller, his will dated 9th June, 1611, proved in P.C.C., 12th June following, mentions his sister Grace Parker, and his brother-in-law Nicholas Parker, and his sister Elizabeth Blake. Also his sons (1) *William*; (2) *George*; (3) *John*, and his daughter; (4) *Grace*, and his sons-in-law, John Marshe and Nicholas Sellacke.

NOTE.—His will was dated, 8th May, 1611. Mentions his three sons William, George, and John, to his sister Elizabeth Blake, “20 nobles”—his sons-in-law, John Marshe and Nicholas Sellacke; his sister, Grace Parker, to her husband Nicholas Parker, “a goulde ring.”

III.—William Huyshe.—

*George Huyshe.*—

*John Huyshe.*—

NOTE.—Will of Robert Boteler, of Old Cleeve, Esq., dated 17th May, 1635, to my godson John Huishe, son of my brother-in-law George Huishe, 40/- George Huishe, Overseer.

**Huyshe,**

OF LONDON, SAND, AND CLYSTHIDON.

I.—**James Huyshe** aforesaid, third and youngest son of John Huyshe, of Doniford, and Grace Walrond, was sometime of Cheapside, London, and a member of the Grocers' Company. He died 20th August, 1590, and was buried in St. Pancras, Soper Lane. His will dated 7th July, 1590, was proved in P.C.C., 27th October, 1590. His monumental inscription is preserved in Stow's *London*. By his first wife he had eleven children, and by his second wife eighteen. Of these Rowland, William, James, and Thomas are the only sons named in his will, and the others here recorded are taken from the parish register of St. Pancras, Soper Lane. His first wife was **Margaret**, daughter and heir of BOWSER or BOURCHIER, of London. She was buried in St. Pancras Church, 12th May, 1568. On the *cross* in the Bouchier arms she bore *a martlet on a crescent by way of difference*. By her he had issue (1) *Rowland*, of whom hereafter; (2) *John*, baptized 4th August, 1556, and died immediately; (3) *Geffry Huysh*, baptized 17th August, 1561, he was living at the *Visitation* of London, 1568; (4) *Lawrence*, baptized March, 1562, buried 28th May, 1564; (5) *Mary*, baptized 7th September, 1554, married, 2nd December, 15—, Nicholas Pendlebury, and she was buried 29th April, 1616, they had issue; (6) *Anne* baptized 3rd November, 1555; (7) *Sibil*, baptized 7th November, 1557; (8) *Grace*, baptized 14th November, 1558; (9) *Martha*, baptized 28th October, 1565, buried 28th April, 1569. James Huyshe's second wife was **Mary**, daughter of WILLIAM MOFFYT, of Barnet, in Herts. She died after having married two other husbands, and was buried in St. Pancras, Soper Lane, 25th September, 1601. Her second husband was Sir William Rowe, Knt., Lord Mayor of London. He died 3rd October, 1593. His will was proved 11th May, 1594, in P.C.C., and he was buried

in St. Lawrence-Jewry, and left no issue by his second wife. Her third husband's arms on the banners borne at her funeral appear in the funeral certificates at the Heralds College, *argent, on a chevron sable, between three martlets of the second, three mullets or*. By her he had issue (1) *William*, baptized 9th August, 1570—he was of the city of London, grocer, 33 Elizabeth (1591), and is styled of London, gentleman, 27th November, 42 Elizabeth (1600); (2) *James*, baptized 20th January, 1576—he was of Gray's Inn, Middlesex, gentleman, 22 November, 42 Elizabeth (1600), and was living 17th December, 4 James I (1606). He was married, and his relict had married in 1626 a Mr. Farrer. (3) *John*, baptized 20th July, 1582; (4) *Thomas*, baptized 17th July, 1583, of London, gentleman, 42 Elizabeth (1600), and living 4 James I (1606); (5) *Christopher*, baptized 21st June, 1584; (6) *John*, baptized and died immediately, 4th August, 1586; (7) *Elyn*, baptized 9th October, 1572; (8) *Alice*, baptized 17th January, 1574 (unmarried 1590), wife of Robert Brett, Esq. *Argent, a lion rampant gules, between eight cross-crosslets fitché of the second*.

## SAND II.

NOTE.—Higher and Lower Sand were first purchased in 1560-1 by Henry Huyshe, eldest son of Humphrey Huyshe, the second son of Oliver Huyshe, of Doniford, temp. Henry VII, of Thomas and Anthony Huyshe, of Axminster, the elder sons of the aforesaid Henry Huyshe, who sold the both estates to their cousin, James Huyshe, of London, 26 Elizabeth, 1583-4. It is situate about half-a-mile north of Sidbury.

The enormous number of children born to James Huyshe—eleven by his first wife and eighteen by the second, in all twenty-nine—is a remarkable circumstance. The descent of Margaret, his first wife, has not been ascertained (there was a large branch of the Bouchiers in Essex), but she is described as an heiress, and the *martlet on the crescent* would imply from the fourth son of the second house. The arms, *argent, a cross engrailed gules, between four water bougets sable*, is the usual bearing of Bouchier, and occupies the third quarter of the family shield at Sand, where it should be noted the arms of Huyshe are also duly differenced both in the shield and on the crest by a *mullet*. The *eleventh* shield in the window displays Huyshe impaling Bouchier. His second wife, Mary Moffit, after bearing her husband eighteen children, after his decease further adventured twice into the bonds of matrimony, capturing the Lord Mayor of the great city for one of them.

The *thirteenth* shield in the hall window at Sand displays the arms recorded: *Argent, semée of cross-crosslets fitchée and a lion rampant gules*, impaling Huyshe, of Sand, being the arms of Brett, of Pillond, in Pilton, North Devon, and relate to the alliance of Alice, their youngest daughter, with Robert Brett.

The *twelfth* shield in the window is Huyshe impaling, *argent, a lion rampant sable, between eight escallops in orle gules*, for Mary, the second wife of James



Huyshe, daughter of William Moffett, of Chipping-Barnet, Hertfordshire, to whom these arms were granted, 10th May, 1585.

Stow speaks of St. Pancras, Soper Lane, as "a proper small church, but divers rich parishioners therein," and the edifice was apparently going to decay and neglected in his day. The inscription was found on "a fair monument in the north wall of the quire" :—

"Here under lieth buried James Huysh, Citizen and Grocer, of London, third son of John Huish, of Beanford (sic), in the County of Somerset, Esq., which James had to his first Wife, Margaret Bourchier, by whom he had Issue cleven children : And to his second Wife, Mary Moffett, by whom he had Issue eighteen Children. He died the 20th Day of August, Ann. Dom., 1590.

*Hac defunctus Huysh tenui sub mole quiescit  
Nec tamen hac totus mole quiescit Huysh.  
Corpus in est Tumulo, colit aurea spiritus astra  
Scilicet hunc cælum vendicat, illud humus.  
Londinensis erat Civis dum Fata sinebant,  
Jam cum sidereo milite miles agit.  
Bis Thalami sociam duxit ; Prior edidit illi  
Undenas Proles, altera bisq : novem.  
Munificam per sæpe manum porrexit egenis,  
Virtutum fautor, Pieridumq : fuit.  
Nil opus est plures illi contexere laudes ;  
Sufficit in Cælo jam reperisse locum."*

Which may be rendered :

"Under this narrow mound rests departed Huysh, yet not all of Huysh rests in this mound ; his body is in the tomb, his spirit inhabits the golden stars ; heaven indeed claims the latter, earth the former. He was a citizen of London, whilst the Fates permitted, now as a soldier he abides with the starry host. Twice was he married : his first wife bare to him a progeny of eleven, his second twice nine. He very often extended a generous hand to the needy, and was a patron of the Virtues and the Muses. There is no need to entwine more praise to him : it suffices that in heaven he has now found a place.

Sir William Rowe, the second husband of Mary Moffet, was Lord Mayor in 1592. A Sir Thomas Roe, or Rowe, was Lord Mayor in 1568, knighted in 1569 ; and a Sir Henry Rowe, Lord Mayor, 1607, knighted at Whitehall, 1603. Sir Thomas bore for his arms, *Argent, on a chevron azure, between three trefoils slipped per pale gulcs and vert, as many bezants, with crest—a stag's head gulcs, attired or.* These arms appear to have been borne by all three, who were probably members of the same family.

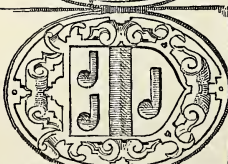
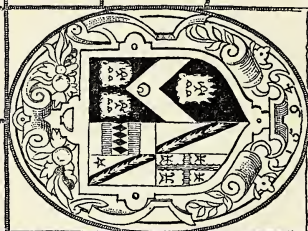
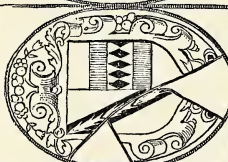
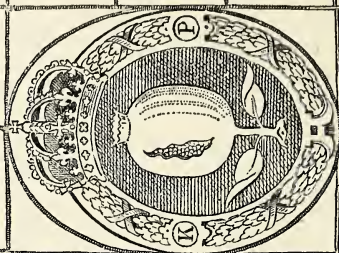
There was a descent of Rowe located at Kingston, in Staverton, Devon, who bore the same arms and crest. Their ancestors appear, from the *Visitations*, to have belonged to Kent, whose descendant, John Rowe, of Totnes, *Serviens ad legem, tempore Henry VIII.* ob. 1544, married Agnes, daughter and coheir of William Barnhouse, of Kingston. Prince includes him among his *Worthies*. Sergeant Rowe was succeeded at Kingston by his son, John Rowe, ob. 1592. They were a family of good position in the county : extinct apparently early in the eighteenth century.

The arms given of the third husband of Mary Moffet, on the funeral certificate, are those assigned to *Madeston*, granted in 1587, with crest—a *cubit arm erect in armour, per pale crenelle, or and argent, holding in the gauntlet a halbert. headed and garnished of the last.*

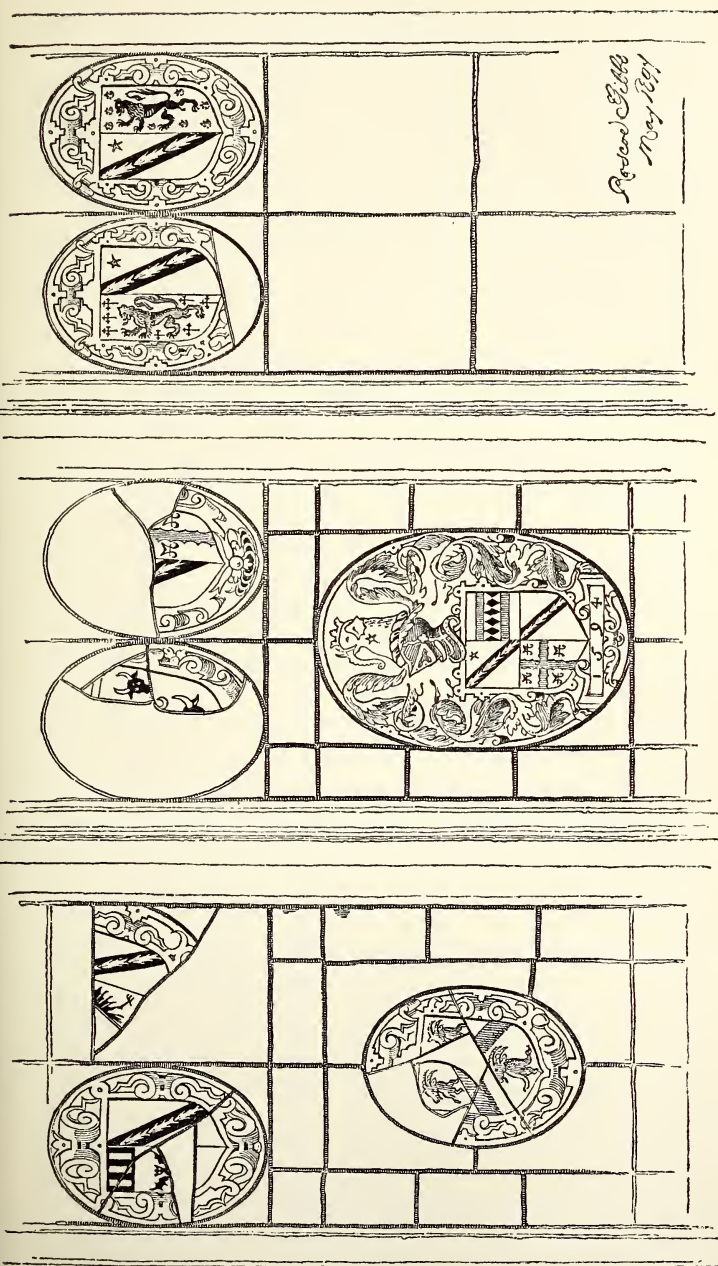
II.—Rowland Huyshe, aforesaid, baptized 11th April, 1560. This name was given him after Sir Rowland Hill, who was one of his godfathers. He was sometime of South Brent,







HERALDRY IN THE WINDOWS OF THE HALL, AT SAND.—(No. 2.)











SHIELD OVER THE GARDEN GATEWAY AT SAND.

in Somersetshire, and afterwards of Sand in the parish of Sidbury, Devon. He had livery of his father's lands, 8th June, 33 Elizabeth (1591). By inquisition taken at Sherborne, 29th August, 9 Charles I (1634), it appears he died 19th January, 8 Charles I (1631-2). Administration to his effects was granted in 1632 to his son James by the Dean and Chapter's Court, Exeter. He was buried at Sidbury, 7th February, 1632. He married Anne, daughter of JOHN WENTWORTH, of Bocking, in Essex, by Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Edward Capel, Knt. She, through Spencer and Clare was descended from Edward I. She was buried at Sidbury, 7th October, 1629. They had issue one son *James*, of whom below.

NOTE.—The appearance of King Philip's badge, temp. 1553-8, among the stained glass, apparently points to its being a relic preserved from a former building, as Sand was not purchased by Huyshe until 1560-1. James Huyshe probably commenced the building of the present house, and his son, Rowland, completed the structure; as on one of the gables of the outbuildings are the initials—

R. A. H.—1600.

marking, it may be assumed, the period of its completion. James Huyhse died in 1590, and the heraldic succession of the smaller shields ends with the impalement of his second wife; Rowland Huyshe's alliance also occurs of larger size, and the family escutcheon of four quarterings is dated 1594.

It should be added this interesting series of shields has greatly suffered in dilapidation since a description taken of them about ten years ago, and referred to in these notes—apparently all have been re-set and the original sequence disturbed.

In the garden at Sand was a gateway—now dilapidated—and over it a sculptured shield of arms, which has been preserved, and is now re-set over another gateway. It displays quarterly of six :—1. *A lion between three crosslets fitchée* (CAPELL). 2. *A chevron between three roundels, on a chief a fret between two cinquefoils* (CAPELL). 3. *On a chevron three garbs* (NEWTON). 4. *A chevron ermine between three escallops* (CHEDDER). 5. *A chevron between three fleurs-de-lis* (DEXWELL). 6. *Semée of cross-crosslets, a lion rampant, crowned*. Underneath—

“HORTVS JOHANNIS CAPELL, 1610.”

The heraldry is interesting. Sir William Capel, an eminent merchant and of vast estate in London; Lord Mayor, 1503; knighted at the coronation of Henry VII, of Rayne Hall, Essex, ob. 6th September, 1515; was succeeded by his son, Sir Giles, Sheriff of Essex, 1528. He married Isabel, daughter of Richard Newton, ob. 1501, son of Sir John Newton, of East Harptree, buried at Yatton, 1488, by his wife Elizabeth, ob. 1498, daughter of Thomas Chedder and Isabel Scobahull, both buried at Cheddar. He was succeeded by their second son, Sir Edward Capel, ob. 1577, who was followed by his second son, Sir Henry, Sheriff of Essex, 1579, ob. 1588. His second wife was Katherine, fourth daughter of Thos. Manners, Earl of Rutland, by whom he had six sons and four daughters. John Capel (of the arms) was his fourth son. An exact duplicate of this shield occurs on the tomb of his next younger brother, Sir Gamaliel, ob. 1613, in Abbots-Roothing Church, Essex. Lysons says this John Capel was cousin-german to Anne Wentworth, Rowland Huyshe's wife.

The Wentworths were a branch of that large and influential family, settled in the three adjoining parishes of Wethersfield, Gosfield, and Bocking, in Essex. Sir Roger Wentworth, Knt., of Codham Hall, and *jure uxoris*, of Gosfield, Sheriff of Essex and Herts, 1499, ob. 1539, with his wife, Anne Tyrell, ob. 1534, a great heiress, are both buried in Wethersfield Church, where is their fine altar tomb and recumbent effigies. They quarter De Spencer in their arms. Roger Wentworth, their third son, was of Felsted, and afterward of Bocking, which manor, in 1540, was granted to him by Henry VIII, on the suppression of the Priory of St. Saviour's, Canterbury, to which it belonged. He had two wives—Mary, and the second, Alice, daughter of William Buckford. He died in 1557, and was buried at Bocking. He was succeeded by his son, John Wentworth, of Bocking, born 1535, died 1603. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Edward Capel, of Hadham, county of Hertford. They had two children—Edward Wentworth, of Bocking, born 1573, died 1616; and Anne, the wife of Rowland Huyshe, of Sand, in Sidbury, Devon. They differed their arms with a *crozier*. This royal descent will be further referred to.

The shield representing this alliance, Huyshe impaling Wentworth, of larger size, also occurs in the hall window.

In a corner of the garden is an old summer or pleasance house, the usual adjunct of this era. It is entered beneath a pillared archway, within, opposite the doorway is apparently the remains of a bay window or fireplace, and an arched ambry or recess occurs in one of the side walls. The little building now shares the fate generally reserved for these antient haunts of squire and dame, being used as a storehouse for farm lumber. Without, in the back gable, in an ornamental panel, are the arms of Huyshe; and over the entrance from the garden the escutcheon of Rowland Huyshe, differenced with the *mullet*, impaling, a *chevron between three leopards' heads, a crescent for difference*, for his wife, Anne Wentworth.

Below the arms in a sculptured panel is this beautiful inscription :—

ΕΥΘΥΜΙΑΣ · FONS · BENE · CONVENIRE · CVM · DEO

which tells us that although

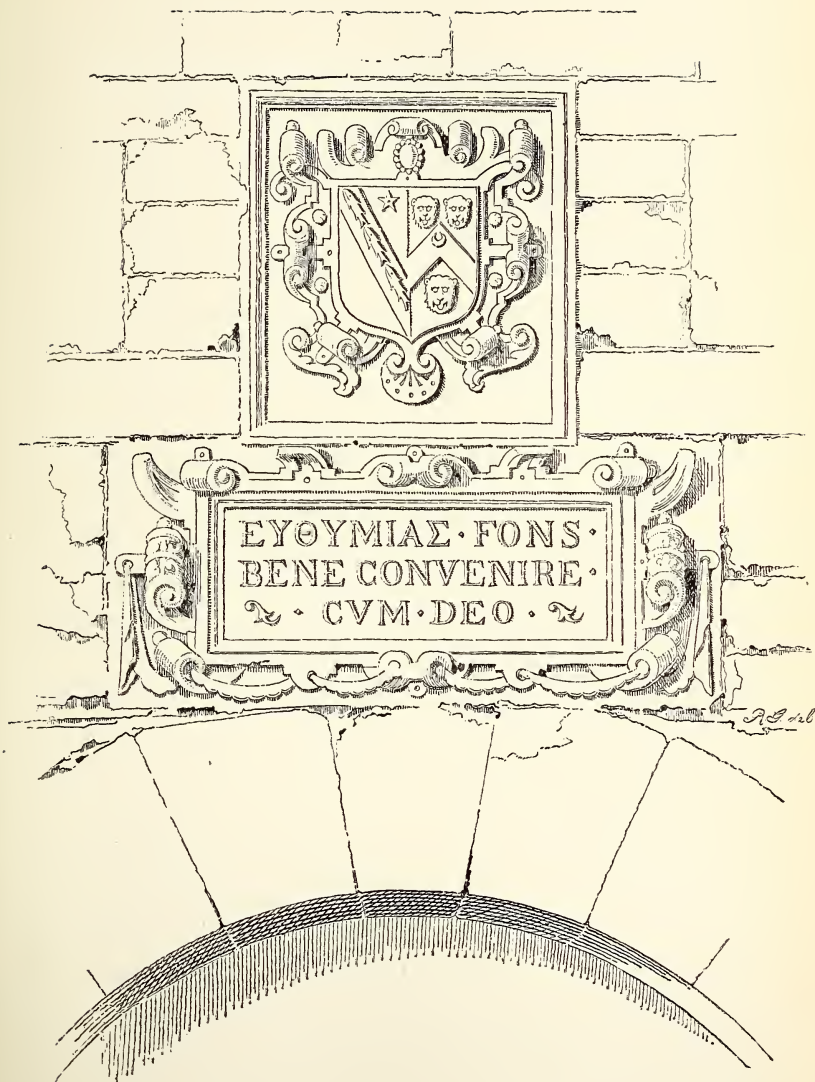
The hand that placed those words is gone,  
His presence is with us to-day;  
No strangers tread these paths alone,  
With them his spirit walks away.

And thou, who dost the import scan,  
That lives within the crumbling words,  
Sees there the image of the man,  
More true than subtlest art affords :—

· Who bids thee to remember this,  
Though sweet these odours from the sod,  
“ *The fountain of true fragrance is  
To be in fellowship with God.* ”

Formerly in the window of the stairway, but now removed to that in the hall, is the *pomegranate* with regal crown, and the initials K.P., for King Philip of Spain, the husband of Queen Mary, and her medallion doubtless originally accompanied it. The quartered shield of Huyshe is also sculptured over the entrance porch.

Sir Rowland Hill, godfather of Rowland Huyshe, born in 1560, was presumably the son of Thomas Hill, of Malpas and Hodnet, and is described as having been “ the first Protestant Lord Mayor of London, 4 Edward VI, 1551, one of the richest and most considerable merchants of his time. He did great acts of generosity, was an eminent benefactor to the public, founded Drayton and other free schools, built Stoke and Hodnet churches, Atcham and Terne bridges, at his own expense, and left his large acquisitions among his four sisters, his coheirs, Agnes, Jone, Jane, and Elizabeth.” He appears to have been the first of his race called Rowland, a name perpetuated in the Huyshe family, and also by the



ON THE SUMMER HOUSE IN THE GARDEN AT SAND.





present Viscounts Hill, who descend from Rowland Hill, of Hawkestone, the son of Humphrey Hill, the nephew of the Lord Mayor. Sir Rowland was knighted between 1537-42, and bore for his arms—*Azure, two bars argent, on a canton sable, a chevron between three pheons argent, on the chevron, a hind's head erased azure, between two mullets of the third.* Crest—*A hind's head erased azure, collared argent, in the mouth a trefoil, slipped vert.* Granted Sir Rowland Hill by Thomas Tonge, Clarencieux, 8th November, 26 Henry VIII, 1535. The bearing on the canton, less the charge on the chevron, appears as one of the quarterings on the escutcheon of Viscount Hill (1872), being the arms of Malpas.

III.—**James Huyshe**, of Sand. He was twenty-four years of age at his father's decease, and had livery of his father's lands granted him 25th June, 10 Charles I, 1634. He engaged most actively in support of the Royal cause in the Rebellion, making great sacrifices of his private fortune. The estates he had inherited from his wealthy and industrious grandfather, were, some sold, and on the remainder a fine was imposed of a tenth, viz. £283. By the Royalist Composition Papers it appears he took up arms against the Parliament, laid them down in 1643, and compounded in 1646. He was appointed a Captain in the Militia of Foot in East Devon, raised by the Duke of Albemarle, 29th January, 1660. He was baptized at Sidbury 2nd May, 1604, and buried there 26th May, 1681. He married **Deborah**, daughter of **RICHARD REYNELL**, of Credenbury, in Devon, Esq., by Mary, daughter and coheir of Sir John Peryam, Knt. She was coheir of her brother Peryam Reynell, and through this match the manor and advowson of Clysthidon came to the Huyshe family. The old family toast at Ogwell commemorates his connexions—

“Fulford, Otterton, Credenbury, Clysthidon, and Sand,  
And all our relations by sea and by land.”

By her he had issue four sons and seven daughters : (1) *James*, of whom hereafter; (2) *John*, baptized 26th February, 1634-5, he was a merchant of Dublin in 1668, and died unmarried at Barbadoes; (3) *Rowland*, baptized 21st September, 1636, buried 28th November, 1638; (4) *Richard*, of whom hereafter; (5) *Anne*, baptized 9th May, 1625, married *John Vernon, Esq.* He was a Captain in the Parliamentary army and obtained the estate of Clontarf of Oliver Cromwell. Of this he was

dispossessed in favour of Edward Vernon, by Charles II. They had issue John Vernon, sometime of Dublin. Will dated 24th December, 1718, and proved in P.C.C., 14th November, 1720. She married secondly *Courtenay*. (6) *Mary*, baptized 1st March, 1626, died in Dublin before 1657, wife of *William Allen*, Adjutant-General in Ireland, living 1657, when he dates from Sand the preface to his *Memoir of Deborah Huish*. In the British Museum there is a copy of a curious pamphlet of his writing, *A Memorial of a remarkable meeting of many Officers at Windsor, in 1648*, London, 1659, quarto, 69 pages. In Thurlow's *State Papers* is an account of his being arrested at his father-in-law's house at Sand, on suspicion of plotting against the Government, as appears by his letter to the Protector. They had a child. (7) *Deborah*, baptized 5th September, 1628, buried 21st August, 1661. In the British Museum there is a curious book written by her brother-in-law, General Allen, in which he gives an account of her most melancholy state of religious despondency for several years, and of her recovery to a true view of the Christian faith, according to his own tenets. The title of the book is *The Captive taken from the Strong*, London, Chapman, 12mo., 1668. (8) *Rebecca*, baptized 20th January, 1632, married at Sidbury 26th June, 1663-4, *Elijah Dene*, rector of Clysthidon, and buried there 27th July, 1670. (9) *Jael*, baptized 24th December, 1642, married 2nd February, 1663, *Francis Drake*, of Ide, merchant. (10) *Tryphena*, baptized 5th February, 1645-6, wife of *John Gay*, of Frithelstock, died 1731. (11) *Sarah*, who died young.

#### CREDY-WIGER AND CLYSTHIDON.

NOTE.—Credy-Wiger, near Crediton, says Pole (who was nearly related by marriage to its first owner of the Periams) "was sold by Thomas Prideaux, of Nutwell, Esq., unto Sir William Periam, Knt., which built a fair dwelling-house, and left it to descend unto his four daughters, Mary my wife, (and three others named), which have sold it to John Periam, of Exeter, Esq. (he was not a knight), brother to Sir William Periam aforesaid, which hath left it unto his eldest daughter, Mary, wife of Richard Reynell, Esq., younger son of (George) Reynell, of Malston (in Sherford, South Devon), which have made it their dwelling-house." Deborah, their fifth daughter was married to James Huyshe, 13 August, 1621.

Of Clysthidon, the same authority remarks, "Gabriel St. Clere sold the same to Edmond Parker, Esq., his brother-in-law, who sold the same to John Periam, Esq., of Exeter, who gave it unto Mary his eldest daughter, wife of Richard Reynell, of Credy-Wiger, Esq., lately deceased." He was a Bencher of the Inner Temple. Their arms, *Argent, masonry sable. a chief indented of the second.* Pole notes, of Malston, "*a crescent for difference,*" of Credy-Wiger, "*a crescent and a rose.*"

On monuments in Sherford Church:—

*"Here lyeth the body of George Reynell, of Malston, Esquire, who died the 8th day of Aprill, An'o Domini, 1643."*

*"In gratam Elizabethae memoriam filiae Petri Specott de Thornbury, Armigeri, nuptae Georgii Reynell de Malston, Armigeri, quae obiit vicesimo secundo die Maij An' Dom' 1662."*

Arms—Specott—Reynell impaling Specott, and Reynell. Crest, *a fox passant.*

The St. Cleres evidently built the south aisle of Clysthidon Church, where their arms occur on the capital of the western respond of the arcade, and on a boss outside at the east corner. The entrance porch of this aisle is finely groined, and on the keystone of the outer arch is an angel holding a shield, quarterly of four (1) *A sun* (ST. CLERE); (2) *a fess between three griffins' heads erased* (HALSE); (3) *a fess engrailed between three mullets pierced* (TIDWELL); (4) *Three roundels, a label of three* (HIDON).

St. Clere inherited Clysthidon by marriage with the heiress of Hidon. Halse and Tidwell represent other matches of St. Clere. Gabriel St. Clere appears to have dissipated the family estates, and Pole gives a curious account of his proceedings anent. The Halses were of Kenedon, an estate and manor house, in Sherford, not far from Malston. It should be noted that Periam acquired also the manor of Stone, adjoining Sand, in Sidbury. On a flat stone in the chancel of Clysthidon:—

*"Here lieth ye body of Elijah Dene, late Rector of this Church, who died ye 10 day of May, Anno Dom., 1703. And also the body of Mary his wife, who died 26th September, Anno Dom., 1701. Together with ye bodies of Dorothy, John, Thomas, and Elijah their children."*

Probably of the family of Dene, of Newton St. Petrock and Horwood, in North Devon, their arms, *Argent, a lion rampant purpure.* Rebecca Huyshe must have been his first wife.

The Periams were eminent citizens and merchants of Exeter, for three generations. William Periam was Mayor, 1532—John, his son, Mayor 1563 and 1572—he had two sons. The eldest, William, became successively a Justice of the Common Pleas, and Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer. He died in 1605, and is buried in Crediton Church, under a fine monument, whereon is his recumbent effigy. John, his brother, mayor, 1587 and 1598, acquired Credy-Wiger from his four nieces, the daughters and coheiresses of his brother, Sir William. By his first wife, Elizabeth, daughter of Roger Prideaux, of Soldon, he had three daughters, and to the eldest, Mary, the wife of Richard Reynell, he gave Credy-Wiger and other property. His portrait, dated 1616, hangs in the Guildhall at Exeter, and another in Exeter College, Oxford, to which he was a benefactor. A small portrait of Sir William, the Lord Chief Baron, is in the National Portrait Gallery.

On a panel outside between two upper windows at Sand, are the initials—

I. D. H.—1673.

which evidently refer to James Huyshe and his wife, Deborah Reynell.

In 33 Elizabeth, 1591, Rowland, son and heir of James Huish, citizen and grocer, of London, purchased one third of the manor of East Ringsted (in Osington, Dorset), of Andrew Rogers, value four pounds. This family seems afterward to have possessed the whole farm, for in 1646, Mr. (James) Huish's farm here was sequestered. They also held Middle Ringsted. It was purchased of — Huish, Esq., by Awnsham Churchill, Esq. (HUTCHINS).

John Gay, eldest son of John Gay, of Frithelstock, ob. 1678, and Joan, daughter of John Smith, of Torrington; baptized 24th November, 1639, at Barnstaple; matriolated Exeter College, Oxford, 3rd April, 1661; B.A. 15th October, 1664; buried at Frithelstock, 25th January, 1716-17. His wife, Tryphena, daughter of James Huish, of Sand, died 6th and buried 10th May, 1731, at Frithelstock. They had issue three sons and four daughters (*Visitations*, Vivian).

IV.—**James Huyshe**, eldest son, was of Sand, baptized 15th July, 1630, and buried 5th June, 1708; will proved in Dean and Chapter's Court, Exeter; he married 25th July, 1684, at Seaton, **Urith**, daughter of EDMOND WALROND, of Bovey, Esq. She was baptized 29th June, 1652; will dated 1st December, 1710; proved Dean and Chapter's Court, Exeter, 16th December, 1716. They had issue one son and four daughters (1) *James*, of whom hereafter; (2) *Deborah*, baptized at Seaton, 4th November, 1685, married *John Woolcot*, of Bossel, in Sidbury, and issue from whom descends the present James Huyshe Woolcot; (3) *Anne*, baptized at Sidbury, 15th September, 1687, and died; (4) *Mary*, baptized 3rd July, 1691, married the *Rev. William Symons*, vicar of Otterton, and had issue *John Symons*, of Heavitree, *James Symons*, vicar of Broadhembury, and two daughters, who all died without issue; (5) *Urith*, baptized at Sidbury 25th July, 1693.

NOTE.—Urith Walrond was great grand-daughter of Sir William Pole, the Antiquary. She was probably called after Urith Shapcote, the daughter of Thomas Shapcote, of Exeter (by Urith, daughter of Henry Sothern, of Poughill, Devon), and wife of Sir Courtenay Pole, Bart. of Shute, her father's first cousin. A pleasant name, Saxon, for *wreath* or *garland*, adopted afterward by several of the allied families of Pole, Trevelyan, and Walrond.

A sundial is affixed to the front of Sand house, on which is the motto—

SOL JUSTITÆ ORIATUR. 1701.

“*May the sun of righteousness arise*”—below are the arms of Huyshe impaling Walrond, for James Huyshe and his wife, Urith Walrond.

The Rev. William Symons, who married Mary Huyshe, was collated to Otterton, 9th June, 1721; died 9th and was buried 12th October, 1782, aged 86, after serving his church sixty-two years.

V.—**James Huyshe**, of Sand, baptized 25th June, 1689, buried 15th March, 1724 (at Sidbury); will proved in Bishop of Exeter's Court, 4th June, 1725. He married **Catherine**, daughter of (WILLIAM) DRAKE, of Yardbury, Colyton. They had issue (1) *James*, baptized 31st March, 1717, buried 14th April, same year; (2) *Anne*, baptized 24th August, 1720, and buried 6th May, 1721.



NOTE.—Katherine Drake, the wife of James Huyshe, was the daughter of William Drake, of Yardbury, Colyton, ob. 18th November, 1727, by his wife Katherine, daughter and coheir of John Pennington of Wicken Hall, Suffolk, and Chiswell, in Essex. She died 15th December, 1730. The Drakes of Yardbury, descended from William Drake, second son of John Drake of Ash, Musbury, ob. 1628, by his wife Dorothy, daughter of William Button, of Alton Priors, Wilts.

The fifth bell in the tower at Sidbury bears the arms of Huyshe, and the following inscription—

“GOD BLESS THE QUEEN AND SAVE THE CHURCH. JAMES HUYSHE, HENREY CONENT, GENT., WARDENS, 1712, T.W.

T. W. is for Thomas Wroth, the bell-founder.

VI.—**Richard Huyshe**, aforesaid, was baptized November, 1638. He was a merchant of Dublin; administration granted to John Vernon, of Clontarf, his nephew, in 1673, 10th December, but set aside 9th November, 1704, and granted to his son, Richard Huyshe. He married **Elizabeth**, daughter of **MORE**, of Queen’s County. She died before her husband. They had issue two sons (1) *Richard*, (2) *Francis*.

VII.—**Richard Huyshe**. He was, with his brother, left an orphan at an early age. He succeeded to the Sand estate on the death of his cousin, James Huyshe. He resided in St. Martin’s-in-the-Fields, Westminster, at the date of his will, 6th December, 1726, which was proved in P.C.C., 15th December, 1726. He married **Mariann**, relict of Synot, but died without issue.

VIII.—**Francis Huyshe**, born 6th May, 1672; M.A., Trinity College, Dublin, 12th July, 1698; Rector of Clyst-hidon, September, 1703; died 9th February, 1764; will proved P.C.C., 10th August, 1765; married 16th August, 1706, **Sarah**, daughter of **RICHARD NEWTE**, of Duval, near Tiverton, in Devon, son of the Rev. Richard Newte, Rector of Tiverton (*see Prince’s Worthies of Devon*). She died 19th March, 1747, in her seventieth year. They had issue four sons and four daughters (1) *Richard*, born 2nd January, 1709-10, died 24th June, 1736, unmarried, of Balliol College, Oxford; will proved 25th March, 1737, in the Bishop’s Court, Exeter. (2) *James*, (3) *John*, of both of whom hereafter; (4) *Francis*, born 17th January, 1722-3, died at Barbadoes, October, 1740, unmarried;



(5) *Elizabeth*, born 17th January, 1711, died 12th November, 1731, unmarried, buried at Sidbury; (6) *Frances*, born 20th April, 1715, died at Exeter 12th April, 1797, buried at Sidbury, unmarried; (7) *Jane*, born 23rd June, 1720, died 23rd October, 1802, unmarried; (8) *Sarah*, born 3rd December, 1707, died at Exeter 2nd January, 1794. She married the *Rev. John Thompson, B.D.*, Rector of Mesey-Hampton, Gloucestershire, who died 12th February, 1773, in his seventy-second year. They had issue one son, *John Thompson*, who died young.

NOTE.—A monument in Clysthidon Church, thereon :—

*“Francis Huyshe, M.A., 61 years Rector of Clysthidon, 9th February, 1764, aged 92. Sarah, his wife, daughter of Richard Newte, Esq., of Duval, Bampton, 19th March, 1748, aged 70. Richard, their eldest son, 24th June, 1736, aged 27.”*

Arms, Huyshe, impaling Newte.

A mural memorial, with a remarkable inscription, to these four daughters, is found in the chancel of Sidbury Church.

*“Beneath this stone in the burial place of their ancestors of Sand in this parish, are deposited the bodies of the four daughters of Francis Huyshe, formerly Rector of Clysthidon, and his wife Sarah, daughter of Richard Newte, of Duval, in the parish of Bampton, who themselves closed the eyes of Elizabeth, November 12th, 1731, in her 21st year; Sarah, the eldest, and widow of John Thomson, Rector of Mesey-Hampton, county of Gloucester, died January 2nd, 1794, having completed 86 years. Frances followed her sister, April 22nd, 1797, at the age of 82. Jane, the youngest, ended that line of the family, with her own blameless life, October 23rd, 1802, in her 83rd year.*

*Where now is their boast, that they and their forefathers of Sand were a branch of the family of Huyshe of Lud-Huyshe and Doniford. county of Somerset, and that the blood of the Plantagenets flowed in their veins, through Joan, daughter of the first Edward?*

*Nothing now can avail them, but their endeavours, through the grace of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ, to be prepared to meet that Saviour as their Judge. (Titus II, 13).*

*Reader! the same judgment awaiteth thee.”*

Arms on a lozenge—Huyshe, quartering Avenel, Bouchier and Reynell.

The royal descent of Huyshe through Wentworth, from the Princess Joan of Acre, third daughter of King Edward I, is interesting.

Hugh le Despencer, Junior—Lord de Spencer, and K.B.—summoned to Parliament as a Baron, 1314 to 1325, was the eldest son of Hugh le Despencer, Senior, Earl of Winchester, by his wife, Isabel, daughter of William Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick. He married, in May, 1306, at the Friars' Minors, London, Eleanor, then aged thirteen, eldest daughter of Gilbert de Clare, seventh Earl of Hertford, and third of Gloucester—surnamed the Red Earl—by his second wife, the Lady Joan Plantagenet, third daughter of King Edward I. After his decease, she re-married Lord Zouche de Mortimer, and died 30th June, 1337.

The tragic fate of these noblemen, father and son—the hapless favourites of King Edward II—their being executed with great barbarity, the elder at Bristol, 27th October, 1326, and the younger at Hereford, 29th November, 1326, are well known episodes in English history.

The fourth son of Hugh le Despencer, Junior, and Eleanor Clare, was Sir Philip le Despencer, who married Margaret, daughter and heir of Ralph de Gousill, and died about 1313. He was succeeded by his son, Philip le Despencer, ob. 1349, who married Joan Strange. To him, his son, Sir Philip, who was summoned to Parliament as a Baron—Lord le Despencer—by writs from 17th December, 11 Richard II, 1387, to 3rd October, 2 Henry IV, 1400. He married Margaret Cobham, and died 1400-1. He was succeeded by his son, Philip, Lord le Despencer, but he appears never to have been summoned to Parliament as a Baron. He married Elizabeth, youngest of the three daughters and coheirs of Robert, Lord Tiptoft, ob. 1372, by Margaret, daughter of William, Lord Deincourt, ob. 1379, and grandson on his mother's side of the unfortunate Bartholomew, Lord Badlesmere, who, after the defeat at Boroughbridge, in 1322, was taken prisoner, and, with about ninety more, lords, knights, and others, who suffered a similar fate, he was “hanged, drawn, and quartered at Canterbury, and his head set upon a pole at Burgate.” By this match with Elizabeth Tiptoft, Sir Philip inherited Nettlested, and died 1423-4. This descent is found on the shield further referred to, on Sir John Wentworth's tomb.

Sir Philip Spencer appears to have had an only daughter and heiress, Margery, ob. 1475, and she married Sir Roger Wentworth, ob. 1452. He was the son of John Wentworth and Agnes Dronfield, the son of John Wentworth and Alice Bissett, of Elmsall, co. York.

Sir Roger, who is styled of Nettlested, apparently *jure uxoris*, had two sons: one, Sir Philip, of Nettlested, ancestor of the Barons Wentworth, of Nettlested, and Earls of Cleveland; and the second, Henry Wentworth, ob. 1482, of Codham Hall, Wethersfield, Essex, which he appears to have acquired, and was the first of the family settled in the county. He married Elizabeth, the only daughter of Henry Howard, of Wigenhall, Norfolk, brother of Sir Robert Howard, ancestor of the Dukes of Norfolk. Arms of Howard, as found on his grandson's, Sir John Wentworth's, tomb—*Gules, on a bend between six crosses crosslet fitchée argent, an ermine spot for difference.*

He was succeeded by his son, Sir Roger Wentworth, of Codham Hall, and also of Gosfield, *jure uxoris*, by marriage with Ann, daughter and coheiress of Humphrey Tyrell, of Warley. In 1497 he was at Blackheath, engaged in the suppression of the Cornish insurgents, on which occasion, in company with six others, he was knighted; in 1499, served as Sheriff of Essex and Hertfordshire; and in 1520, was in the train of Henry VIII, being in attendance on the Queen at the Field of the Cloth of Gold, where met the two monarchs of France and England—

“Those suns of glory, those two lights of men,  
“Twixt Guines and Arde.”

He died 9th August, 1539, his wife 1534; they were buried in Wethersfield Church, where there is a fine monument to them, with their recumbent effigies in alabaster, originally finely painted and gilded, but of which scarcely a vestige remains. Both tomb and figures are much mutilated: the knight is bare-headed, but otherwise in full plate armour, over which he wears a surcoat or tabard, on which his arms were once illuminated; his feet rest on a unicorn. The lady has a pyramidal head-dress with flowing lappets, and a rich collar and pendant of roses around the neck. Panels, with shields denuded of their charges, appear below. He left four sons and three daughters. Roger, his third son, was of Bocking, and grandfather of Ann Wentworth, who married Rowland Huyshe. Arms of Tyrell, as found on his son's tomb—*Argent, two chevrons azure, on the upper an annulet for difference, a bordure engrailed gules.*

To Sir Roger came his eldest son, Sir John Wentworth, of Codham Hall and Gosfield; knighted by Henry VIII in 1546, and ob. 1567. He married Ann Bettenham, of Kent, ob. 1575, by whom he had one son, who died young, and

three daughters. They are buried in Gosfield Church, under a high tomb of Purbeck marble, beneath the arch which separates the Wentworth chapel (built by them) from the chancel. A portion only of the inscription on the border fillet remains; below, in cusped panels, were originally ten shields of brass, their bearings enamelled and gilded; of these three remain. One, with fourteen quarters, displays in the first seven the descent of Sir Roger, who married Margery Spencer, on both sides:—1. *Sable, a chevron between three leopards' heads or, a crescent gules surmounted of another or, for difference* (WENTWORTH). 2. *Gules, on a bend argent, three escallops azure* (BISSETT). 3. *Paly of six, sable and argent, on a bend gules, three mullets or* (DRONFIELD), being the descent of Wentworth, and 4. *Quarterly argent and gules, in the second and third quarters a fret or, over all on a bend sable, three mullets of the first (apparently for difference)* (DE SPENCER). 5. *Barry of six, or and azure, a canton ermine* (GOUSELL). 6. *Argent, a saltire engrailed gules* (TIPTOFT). 7. *Argent, a fess between two bars gemel gules* (BADLESMERE), being the descent of De Spencer. The remaining seven quarters relate to succeeding matches of the family. Above the shield on a helmet, in profile with mantling, is the Wentworth crest:—*Out of a ducal coronet or, an unicorn's head couped at the shoulders*. Arms of Bettenham on the tomb:—*Argent, a saltire engrailed sable, between four bears' heads erased, of the last, muzzled or*.

IX.—**James Hayshe**, born 12th September, 1712, died at Cullompton 25th May, 1784; married **Amy Parsons**. She died at Cullompton 16th June, 1807. They had issue one son, who died young.

X.—**John Hayshe**, changed the spelling of his name to **Huish**, born 29th June, 1717, died 17th May, 1802, buried at Pembridge; will proved P.C.C., 22nd July, 1802. He was rector of Pembridge, Herefordshire, and married 20th March, 1766, at Oxford, **Elizabeth**, daughter of **THOMAS HORNSBY**, of Durham, Esq. She was born 17th June, 1738, died June, 1792. They had issue two sons and one daughter (1) *Francis*, of whom hereafter; (2) *John*, in holy orders, sometime of Heathenhill, in the parish of Clysthidon, now of Exeter, born 10th December, 1772, married at Eardisley, Herefordshire, October, 1799, *Millborough Ann*, daughter of *Thomas Harris*, of Hereford. She died 19th July, 1824. They have now living four sons and one daughter (1) *John*, of whom hereafter; (2) *Rowland*, vicar of East Coker, Somersetshire, born 26th August, 1801, married *Hannah*, daughter of *John Bullock*, of East Coker; (3) *George (Henry)*, born 2nd February, 1804, major in the 26th Bengal Native Infantry, late Assistant Commissary-General, married (1830) in India, *Harriette Matilda*, daughter of — *Lightfoot*; has issue *John Troughton*, born 10th

February, 1832 ; a daughter, born 20th January, 1837. (4) *Alfred*, born 8th August, 1811, a first lieutenant in the Bengal Horse Artillery, married 1836, in India, *Julia* (*Maria*), daughter of the Rev. (George) Hagar. (5) *Millborough Ann*, born 29th November, 1803, married 25th January, 1832, the Rev. *Charles Walkey*, of Lucton, Herefordshire, and has issue (1) *John Charles Elliott*, born 14th September, 1833 ; (2) *Francis Samuel*, born 6th January, 1836, and a daughter, born 24th August, 1837 ; (3) *Sarah*, born 1st January, 1770, married at Pembridge, 1st June, 1793, *Richard Whitcombe, Esq.*, of Bollingham, Herefordshire (of the Whitcombes of Berwick-Mavesyn, county of Salop), who died April, 1829, at Cleveley, Cambridgeshire ; their only issue, *Richard Whitcombe*, born 2nd March, 1794, a barrister of Lincoln's Inn, one of the Commissioners of Enquiry into the Municipal Corporations, died 12th November, 1834, buried at Hastings.

NOTE.—Sarah Huyshe, who married Richard Whitcombe, was daughter of John, ob. 1802, and sister of Francis, the compiler of the pedigree.

Rowland Huyshe, vicar of East Coker, died without issue in 1863.

Major George Henry Huyshe became a general in the army and C.B. He had another son, George Lightfoot, born 1839, a captain in the Rifle Brigade. His daughter was called Mary Millborough, and married in 1857, Richard foliot Eliot.

Lieut. Alfred Huyshe also became a general in the army and C.B. He had issue (1) Alfred George Huyshe, of Sand, died 6th August, 1886, without issue ; he was also a major-general in the army and C.B. ; he married 1870, Harriet Helena, daughter of Francis Arthur French, of Newlands, Dublin. (2) Francis John Huyshe, of Sand, born 1840 ; clerk in holy orders ; (rector) of Wimborne-Minster, Dorset ; married 1877, Amy, daughter of . . . Ratclyffe, and has issue. (3) Dunbar Frazer Huyshe, born 1841 ; Lieut.-Colonel, Royal Artillery (late Bengal) ; married 1876, Augusta, daughter of the Venerable Archdeacon Bridge, and has issue. (4) Wentworth Huyshe, born 1847 ; married 1870, Gertrude, daughter of . . . Ulthorne. (5) Edward Vyvyan Huyshe, born 1850 ; a major in the Welsh Regiment, 1889. (*Vivian's Visitations of Devon*, 1895).

XI.—Francis Huish, now Huyshe, having returned to the old spelling of the name, of whom in the commencement of this pedigree.

NOTE.—Within the Castle of Exeter was the antient Church or Collegiate Chapel of St. Mary, established at a remote period for four Prebendaries. Lysons says it was founded in the reign of King Stephen by Ralph Avenell (grandson of Baldwin de Brionis) and his aunt, Adela. Dr. Oliver assigns its foundation to be coeval with that of the Castle, and speaks of letters patent addressed by William Avenell to Robert Chichester, Bishop of Exeter, 1138-50, wherein it is styled, "*Ecclesia de Castello Exonie cum quatuor Prebendis.*" The



four Prebends were those of Hayes, Cutton, Carswell, and Ashclyst, the patronage of all being vested in the Barony of Oakhampton. The College was suppressed with other Collegiate Churches and Chapels, but the building continued in use, and divine service was performed in it till it was taken down about the year 1782. The Prebend of Cutton, valued in Henry VIII's taxation at eight pounds, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, came into the possession of the Aclands, the present holders, and the lands of the Prebendal manor are in the parish of Poltimore.

It is interesting to note that the Rev. Francis Huyshe, M.A., the compiler of this pedigree, was the Prebendary of Cutton, of this antient foundation, being instituted thereto 4th July, 1831—patron, Sir Thomas Dyke Acland, Bart.; and further, the coincidence of an Avenell being concerned in its early foundation, whose arms form one of the quarterings of the family escutcheon of Huyshe, from one of whom they descend.

The old Chapel was situate to the right, just inside the main gateway of the Castle. In it was a considerable collection of arms and armour, given early in the present century by Lieutenant-General Simcoe, Commander of the District, to John Houlton, Esq., of Farleigh Castle, Somerset, but which a few years since was restored to Exeter, and is now preserved in the Museum. A house for the custodian of the Castle precincts has lately been erected on the site of the Chapel, and in taking out the foundations the floor of the preceding edifice was discovered, together with some human bones, probably the remains of former Prebendaries, there interred.

There is a tradition that the final destruction of the Chapel was determined on through the tolling of the bell for the daily service, which, during assize time, annoyed the Judges, and the Prebendaries declined to cease.

XII.—*John Huyshe*, now rector (1837) of Clysthidon, born 15th September, 1800, married *Ann Lydia*, daughter of *WILLIAM GREAVES*, of Mayfield, Derbyshire, M.D.

NOTE.—Grand Master of the Freemasons for the Province of Devon; was married 4th May, 1837, and died 18th October, 1880; buried at Clysthidon.



FROM THE HALL WINDOW, SAND.







ADMIRAL BLAKE  
FROM THE PICTURE IN THE HALL OF WADHAM COLLEGE,  
OXFORD.

## The Life of Admiral Robert Blake, stripped of legendary matter.

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and Captain, R.N.*

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IT is high time that some conspicuous monument should be raised—at any rate by Somersetshire men—to the honour of Robert Blake of Bridgwater, Admiral and General-at-Sea. One is naturally inclined to regret that there has been such a long delay ; but from one point of view it may be well. We do not want to commemorate the hero of legend, but the hero of history ; and the process of clearing off the clouds and bringing the real man into the sunlight of historical documents is scarcely accomplished even yet. It is easy to understand how the legendary halo came to encompass this great name. There was no sort of contemporary history. The principles for which he lived and died were almost wholly submerged under the restored Stuarts. By the time that men endeavoured to gather up materials for his history legend had begun to trifle with its grand outlines, and such poor attempts as were made to present him to the world were shrouded in a misty atmosphere of unreality.

In this necessarily brief paper I propose to keep in view the special relations of Robert Blake to his birthplace and his county, as displayed in the five distinct portions of his career ;

the period of his education, of his commercial life, of his political life, as a soldier on land, and as a naval officer. He stands alone amongst naval and military heroes in the peculiarity of his training for noble deeds. Certainly no one of our great seamen began his career of glory as late as the age of fifty, or crowded into seven years a succession of glorious acts which all but he—and we may add Lord Nelson—have taken a life-time to accumulate. However necessary to a naval officer that he should enter his profession in early life, the exceptional nature of Blake's training supplied, in his particular case, all deficiencies.

We must here avoid a discussion of the merits of Cavalier and Roundhead. No one of us can say what he would have done under the pressure of Charles I's unconstitutional, not to say tyrannical, proceedings. Blake's family belonged to that sturdy, truly English, commercial class which, in most parts of the country, and not least in Somersetshire, determined on resistance; and during the ten years of his Oxford life (1616-1625) he was naturally induced to take that side by the prevalence of the great ecclesiastical struggle which convulsed Oxford, and afterwards all England. He was witness to James I's efforts to tamper with the rights of the University, which corresponded too well with his suppression of Parliaments; and his acquaintance with classical literature opened his eyes to the consequences of despotism. Of Wadham College, the splendid foundation of the Somersetshire Wadhams, he was one of the early members, and here, along with others from his own county, he nursed that love of his native home, and those principles of ordered freedom, which coloured his life.

In 1625 his father's commercial prosperity had become clouded, and he died in debt. Blake now enters on the second stage of his career, managing the family business, paying off the debt, and providing for the education and settlement of his numerous brothers, of whom he was the eldest. These

duties he honourably performed, and no doubt they were of some influence in shaping his course of life, not least perhaps in preventing him from thinking of marriage. At Bridgwater he learnt the habits of business which stood him in good stead when the reorganization of the navy fell into his hands. Here he also learnt to act on his own responsibility in connection with nautical affairs: perhaps he sailed his own ships, and he certainly had to provide for their defence from the Barbary corsairs who were one day to feel his powerful arm.

During these years Blake had established his political position as an opponent of the Court, and had such painful opportunities close at home of observing the faults of the king's ecclesiastical advisers, that we can well understand how he came to make open profession of Puritan principles. His education, his honourable character, and his consistency, pointed him out as the representative of Bridgwater in the "Short Parliament" of 1640; but nothing as yet distinguished him from the crowd. He was no longer young. No gifts of speech had brought him to the front, nor was his influence as yet sufficient to counteract that of the Royalist gentry, who, when the "Long Parliament" was summoned in 1641, put a member of their own body into the seat which Blake had held. Nothing but the Civil War could have brought his great qualities to light.

As soon as it became evident that the contest between King and Parliament must be decided by arms, Blake seems to have been intimately concerned with the raising of troops. His first movements are naturally obscure; but in 1642 we find him serving under Sir John Horner, of Mells, when the Royalist Marquis of Hertford was driven out of Wells, and then as Lieutenant-Colonel of Alexander Popham's fine Somersetshire regiment. In this capacity he did good service in the defence of Bristol. It is possible, though not historical, that the story of his refusing to quit his post, after the city had been weakly surrendered to Prince Rupert by Colonel Fiennes, may have



some truth in it. We may at least be quite sure that it would not have been surrendered by Blake. He was now to show of what stuff he was made.

At the head of Popham's regiment he was detached, in 1644, to watch the progress of Prince Maurice's force in Dorsetshire. There was no time to lose, and he at once took what might well seem the foolhardy resolution to throw himself into the little fishing-village of Lyme Regis. This was a weak place by situation, and the defences which he hastily threw up were of the feeblest kind, wholly unfit to resist an army of five thousand men with a regular siege-train. Nevertheless, Prince Maurice found he had to do with a man whose little garrison was quite as brave as himself, who was utterly indifferent to odds, whose resources were inexhaustible, and who understood how to get excellent intelligence of his enemy's proceedings. Thus, finely supported by his Somersetshire men, he resisted for no less than three months the perpetual onslaughts and bombardments of a gallant enemy. Then at last Lord Warwick's fleet and Maurice's necessities put an end to a siege which would have attracted more attention if Blake's splendid defence had not been immediately eclipsed by his more famous defence of Taunton in 1645.

Into this place, unfortified like Lyme, and unarmed, but by its situation important enough to justify all risks, Blake threw himself at a critical moment. Lord Essex, the Parliamentary general, had blundered almost fatally in the West Country, and the royal forces gathered to the support of their friends. Taunton blocked the roads, and could not be left in the rear. Here again, with mere impromptu fortifications and weak artillery, Blake infused his brilliant courage, not only into his troops, but into the townsmen and the neighbourhood. They shrank from no sacrifice, they refused no labour. Every effort was made to dislodge this stubborn garrison. Desperate street-fighting by night and day continually issued in the defeat of the storming parties : starvation was at one time imminent :

fresh commanders, fresh bodies of besiegers succeeded no better than their predecessors : in fact, there were no less than three sieges before relief finally arrived. By that time the town was in ruins. It had occupied a body of four thousand foot and five thousand horse for nearly all the summer of 1645, and had been an important factor in the issue of the war. It entirely broke up the superiority of the Royalists in the West of England, and, next to the decisive battles of Marston Moor and Naseby, contributed more than any other action to the King's discomfiture. Blake finished the campaign by taking Dunster Castle.

Between 1645 and 1649 we hear very little of our hero, till, in fact, after the King's execution. In the former year he was elected to Parliament for Bridgwater. His troops were disbanded, and the Self-denying Ordinance relieved him from his military duties, but he was made Governor of Taunton, and devoted himself to the restoration of the town. We hear nothing of him in Parliament. Much speculation has arisen out of this temporary obscurity. He was thought to have incurred Cromwell's jealousy, and has been said to have objected to the hard treatment of the King ; but when he took his seat in Parliament, in 1646, the unbending Ludlow has asserted that Blake shared his own sentiments, and he certainly omitted to take any steps to save the King's life. His name is not indeed to be found in the list of the regicides, but he accepted his great post of "general-at-sea" a few days after the execution. We may fairly account for his temporary obscurity by observing that he had never been one of Cromwell's comrades, and was not likely to be preferred to those who had fought by the side of the conqueror. No doubt he presented himself rather as a man of action than a statesman. But in the downright, indomitable, republican patriot Cromwell's keen eye detected the man required for the reorganization of the navy, and who, considering State affairs not to be its province, would "prevent foreigners from fooling us." That famous

expression, whether originally Blake's or not, exactly represented his conduct of sea affairs; and under the Commonwealth, with a fleet which had not yet forgotten the Stuarts, and with a host of enemies rising up on all sides, this principle alone could save the State.

The apprenticeship of the scholar, merchant, politician, and soldier is now over, and we seem to know the man who, at the age of fifty, is placed for the first time on the quarter-deck of a man-of-war; nor only so, but in command of fleets. On February 12th, 1649, foreign affairs assuming a threatening aspect, three colonels are made "generals-at-sea"; Popham, who had served in the Royal Navy, and was brother of Blake's old chief; Blake himself; and Deane, who had begun life at sea. The seven years which we are now to deal with were spent in three different lines of sea service, which may be thus summarised. He was first employed against Prince Rupert, who commanded what few of the Royal ships remained faithful to the Crown, and then against the last strongholds of the Royalists in the Channel. He next commanded the British fleet in the Dutch war, and lastly in the Spanish war. We will take them in order.

Prince Rupert's squadron was a great and immediate danger to the Commonwealth. Like Blake, and afterwards Monk, the Prince had exchanged land-fighting for sea-fighting with remarkable facility, and his dashing spirit had been sufficiently testified. His squadron formed a nucleus for banished Royalists driven to desperation, and it seized what supplies it required, very much after the fashion of pirates. It now took refuge from Blake's superior force in the harbour of Kinsale, where it was blockaded for some months. Taking advantage of a November gale it slipped away to Lisbon, where Blake once more formed a blockade. Before he left England, Cromwell offered him the post of Major-General, to act under himself in the conquest of Ireland, but Blake had taken kindly to the sea, and elected to hunt out Prince Rupert. From March to

May, 1650, he watched the mouth of the Tagus, putting effective pressure upon the King of Portugal and afterwards on Spain and France in succession, till at last the Princes, finding themselves unwelcome in the ports of the Mediterranean, and several of their ships destroyed, got away to the West Indies. There Maurice was lost at sea, and Rupert reduced to one ship, which finally carried him to France. These services lasted two years, and were gratefully recognized by Parliament. They formed a good education for the new "general-at-sea."

Blake was now entrusted with the task of subduing the last refuges of the Royalists, the Scilly Islands and Jersey. The former were dangerous on account of their good situation for harassing British trade, and the Dutch had already sent their great admiral, Tromp, to reconnoitre them for that purpose. Blake found no great difficulty in reducing and securing the Islands. A new danger arose before he could attack Jersey. The invasion of England by the young Charles, at the head of the gallant Highlanders, summoned Blake from the quarter deck once more and for the last time. On August 19th Parliament in anxious haste appointed him Commander-in-Chief of the army in the four counties where he had been so well known, Somerset, Cornwall, Devon, and Dorset. Three days later however the order was cancelled; for the fleet could not be left to itself. Popham just at this time died and Deane was not on the spot. Blake is to repair to the Downs, to hoist his flag on board the *Victory*, to see that no supplies are sent from abroad to "the King of Scotland, who is now marching to the South, and to prevent any impressions that may be made on the seamen by misrepresentation of affairs." To mark the sense of his importance at this crisis he is made, jointly with General Lambert, Warden of the Cinque Ports, and sole General-at-Sea for the next nine months. The capture of Jersey was his last task before the great Dutch war. Sir George Carteret made a gallant defence; but, as at Scilly,



Blake brought his ships close up against the forts in a manner, one might say, till then unknown; and, in spite of the rock-bound coast, suffered but little in the process. In these minor engagements he learnt to estimate the forts of those days at their true value, and soon applied his experience on a larger scale.

Our hero had now taken his place at the head of the Navy so obviously that Parliament elected him a member of the Council of State, which gave him an advantage, both as to the knowledge of home and foreign affairs, very rare in the history of naval commanders. The confidential relations thus invited were not established a day too soon; for the most serious naval war in which England had ever yet been engaged was on the point of breaking out. The Dutch were already employed in fitting out a fleet of men-of-war, and were determined to bring a long series of petty quarrels to an end by deciding once for all which was the strongest power on the sea. On two main points the Dutch were resolved to resist the British claims to the "Sovereignty of the Seas." The first was symbolised by what was called the "honour of the flag"; the other was the right to the fishing-grounds on the British coasts. The first, which has a long history of its own, and was by no means a mere ceremony, had always been submitted to, even in the ignominious reigns of James and Charles, and it now came first into dispute. Blake had his orders to insist; the Dutch Admiral, Tromp, to resist.

Four days before Tromp opened the war, a Dutch ship off Start Point was forced, in accordance with all former precedents, to salute the British flag; but Blake had only a small squadron of twenty-three ships under his orders, and only fifteen with himself, when Tromp, at the head of forty-two, bore down upon him when he was cruising near the Downs, and refused to salute. Blake singled himself from the rest of the squadron, and neared the Dutch admiral with a view to demanding his salute without effusion of blood. For that



purpose he fired three single guns, to which Tromp replied with a broadside. The battle then commenced with fury, but Blake was so far ahead of his own ships that he had to sustain the fight alone, for a considerable time, with all the Dutch ships that could get near him. He was thus severely handled, but not taken. Bourne, his second in command, now came up and attacked the Dutch rear ; so that Tromp thought it best to make off in the darkness, nor did he resume the combat next day. Parliament and the Council cordially approved of Blake's conduct.

A sanguinary war was about to begin between two nations of seamen, proud and brave, of the same Teutonic race, and inflamed against one another to the highest pitch of hostility. Convinced of the justice of their cause the British made their appeal to heaven. Blake, with his officers and seamen, "kept several days of humiliation in the fleet ;" nor did these grim warriors fight the worse for acknowledging, after their own fashion, a Higher Power than themselves.

The Government now turned their attention to the Dutch commerce which, as it was forced to pass by the British coasts, was the chief element of Dutch weakness in a war with England. Blake was sent to the North with a large part of his fleet to enforce the tax of the tenth fish upon the Scottish fishing grounds. This tax had been commuted for an annual sum of £30,000, which the Dutch had latterly refused to pay. The herring fleet numbered six hundred large vessels, called "busses," under a convoy of men-of-war. The latter were captured, but Blake set free those of the busses which he succeeded in taking, though he took care to unload them of their fish. This was censured by some as a misplaced generosity, but it was characteristic : he had no quarrel with the poor.

While Blake was thus engaged, Tromp was collecting a fine fleet in the Texel, and took advantage of the occasion. But the winds and waves favoured the English. Light winds and calms broke up Tromp's plan of attack upon the coast of Kent

and upon Sir George Ayscue's small squadron, and when he rushed to the North to measure himself against Blake a violent storm separated the fleets and forced the Dutch to retreat to Holland. His countrymen were furious ; they had lost the fish on which they lived, and their expensive armament had failed. The brutal insults heaped on the great admiral culminated in his suspension from command. De Ruyter, a younger officer, whose reputation, already high, was to eclipse that of Tromp, hoisted his flag, but De With, an officer much inferior to both, took the chief command. This was a political mistake ; and, as the Dutch seamen resented the treatment received by Tromp, assisted Blake to win his first victory off the Kentish Knock, a shoal near the North Foreland, on September 28th, 1652. The Dutch had been hurried to sea with weak crews and quarrelling captains, but they did their best to compensate for these defects by forming up their ships on the flank of the shoal. Blake, however, resolved to run any risk rather than fail to engage ; and, in his efforts to keep the wind, his own ship and others had, as he says in his despatch, "three or four rubs upon the shoal." But they were not damaged, and, obeying his positive orders, reserved their fire till they came to close quarters. Thus they did great execution on the enemy. "Three of the Dutch ships were wholly disabled at the first brunt, having lost all their masts." "The Dutch rear-admiral and two captains were made prisoners." In the morning the enemy fled to Holland. This was a great but not decisive victory. It was far from subduing the gallant Dutch ; indeed, it only brought out their noble spirit. They saw their errors, and in an incredibly short time rectified them.

The English government were completely in the dark as to this movement. The Dutch had placed Tromp once more at the head of their navy, and in six weeks he was at sea at the head of eighty-five ships, with officers of his own choice. Meanwhile, disregarding Blake's repeated warnings, and requiring his ships for many other services, the Council of State

broke up the fleet, leaving their admiral with only forty-five ships, and some of these only partially manned. The tables were turned. Tromp, with about double the number of Blake's ships, challenged him to battle, and his Council of War agreed with him that the challenge should be accepted. The battle was fought off Dungeness, and, as usual, centred round the admirals on either side. Blake, in the *Triumph*, had a desperate encounter with the flagships of De Ruyter and Evertsen, but was nobly supported by the *Vanguard* and *Victory*. These three ships were, in fact, engaged with twenty Dutch ships at once, but though terribly mauled they were not taken. Tromp, in the *Brederode*, was also attacked by two English ships, but with the help of Evertsen, they were both taken after great slaughter. Both were very weak ships, under rash but gallant captains, who were both killed. Unfortunately some of the other English captains did not behave with proper spirit, and Blake, unable to trust them, thought it best to retreat to Dover, and thence to the Thames. This was the famous occasion when Tromp is said to have hoisted a broom at his masthead, against which notorious legend there is a good deal to be said. At any rate, Blake left the Channel open to Tromp, who swept it pretty clean; and his conduct has in modern times been made a charge of rashness for attacking double his own number of ships. This was not the opinion of contemporaries, who soon discovered that he was not at all to blame. How could he have foreseen that the very men who had advised the attack should have failed at the crisis? He had several ships, as in all the battles, which were superior to those of the enemy, and the Dutch had not yet inspired much respect for their prowess. Even as it was, his loss of ships was inconsiderable. But the result of the battle nearly broke his heart, as his despatch shows.

He begins by insisting on an examination into the "deportment of several commanders," since "there was so much baseness of spirit" amongst them. Next he desires an enquiry

into "the discouragement, and want, of seamen"; and finally asks for his "discharge from this employment so much too great for me . . . . that so I may spend the remainder of my days in private retirement and in prayers to the Lord for a blessing upon you and the nation;" and again, "that so I may be freed from that trouble of spirit which lies upon me, arising from the sense of my own insufficiency and the usual effects thereof, reproach and contempt of men and disservice of the Commonwealth." There is, however, a saving clause in this pathetic letter. He earnestly begs for reinforcements "to fight them again." The Council might read between the lines a reproach for leaving him in the condition which gave Tromp his victory.

The Council of State understood their man, and took a leaf out of the Dutch book. They thank him heartily for his "good deportment in that action, and his faithful service." No word of recrimination appears. They send Commissioners to try the accused captains; they order all the detached squadrons to rally round the General; they take infinite pains to redress the wrongs of the seamen; they send twelve hundred land soldiers for ship service; and they recognize that their Commander had too great a weight to bear on his own shoulders. Two officers of the highest reputation are sent from Scotland to share it—Monk and Deane—but Blake of course stood first of the three generals-at-sea, and remained in chief command until he was entirely disabled.

Thoroughly aroused by this blow the English Government resolved to stop Tromp on his passage back to Holland with his convoy of homeward-bound ships. The fleet was ordered to pivot upon Portland, and to stretch backwards and forwards across the Channel. Being in three divisions, the squadrons happened, at the moment when Tromp made his appearance, to be separated; Monk, perhaps from want of experience, being four miles dead to leeward. Blake, as might be expected, elected to stand the whole brunt of the enemy's attack,



so as to employ him till the other squadrons should work up to windward ; and as the Dutch were slightly superior in number to the whole English fleet together, his squadron suffered severely. His own ship, fighting, as usual, many of the enemy at once, and Tromp's flagship amongst them, lost one hundred men killed and many more wounded. Blake himself sustained a severe laceration of the thigh, from which he never properly recovered. His flag-captain and his secretary were both killed by his side. On Monk's squadron getting up Tromp found himself beaten, and drew off to protect his convoy. The combat was, however, protracted for three days in a running fight, like that of the Armada, during which Tromp lost a great many ships, but by consummate management brought back a majority of them into Dutch ports. This was a great and hard-won victory, but it took two more to break the stubborn spirit of foemen well worth the English steel.

Blake's wound had been neglected during the crisis of the three-days fight, and had to be carefully treated on shore. During his recovery occurred the forcible expulsion of Parliament by Cromwell, of which it has been said that Blake disapproved ; but as we find him at the Admiralty three weeks later, and later still cordially working with the new Protector, it is plain that he had no idea of relinquishing his work. His fleet was in excellent order : three of the captains of whom he had complained on the former occasion, had been imprisoned while waiting for trial, and he now took charge of the North Sea, leaving Monk in charge of the Straits of Dover. It fell to that fine officer to come across the enemy and fight the next battle, which began at the North Foreland and ended at Nieuport ; but Blake's squadron came up in time to change the stubborn fight into a headlong rout, and under him was formed the blockade of the Dutch coasts. Overtures for peace followed, but Cromwell would not accept them.

Blake remained in command off the coast of Holland for some



weeks, but had to succumb to a complication of diseases which were more or less the consequence of his wound, aggravated by the want of rest and press of business. Monk was appointed to succeed him, and he retired to his own home, thus missing the last and most entirely decisive battle of the whole seven, in which Monk, on July 31st, 1653, crushed the Dutch navy—by this time much enfeebled—for many a long year. The *Triumph*, the ship which Blake had so often fought gloriously, was one of Monk's fleet, and after doing her duty in the old manner, was so badly injured that her crew set her on fire and for the most part deserted her; but there were some left who were determined that their adored chief's ship should be taken out of battle. They extinguished the flames and brought her out. For this each man received a medal, specially struck for them. Parliament, at Cromwell's instigation, granted gold medals to the chief officers of the war. Those assigned to Blake, Monk, Penn, and Lawson, along with fine gold chains, were much larger than the rest. They are beautiful works of art, by the celebrated Simon. Three are still in existence. One is at Windsor Palace, the other at Wadham College, both claiming to be Blake's; but whichever was his, the other is almost certainly Monk's. Penn's is in possession of his descendants. Lawson's has never been met with.

Blake's enforced relaxation in 1653 was the first which had fallen to his lot since he took up arms, and it was the last. He spent his time at Knoll, near Bridgwater, and his health gradually improved in his wholesome native air. We hear of his quiet, simple habits. A favourite walk took the place of the quarter-deck or poop; and though he did not dislike company his disposition was taciturn and contemplative. By the end of the year he was much better, and with the spring entered on the last and perhaps most glorious part of his career. Again he was employed to reorganize the navy, and on September 29th, 1654, took his fleet to the Mediterranean. The Dutch had been supreme in that sea: Blake was now to instal

his country in their place, and to force the Barbary States to acknowledge and respect it. With the European states he was uniformly successful without recourse to force, but the African states required a firm hand. At Algiers he was at least civilly treated, but the Bey of Tunis defied him in set terms. This chief relied upon his strong castle of Goletta, moored his nine fighting ships opposite the mole of Porto Farino, and planted batteries at all available points. Everything depended on the wind, which, however, turned out favourable for getting in and coming out. The forts were silenced and the ships burnt in the course of a single hour, with no greater loss than twenty-five killed and forty wounded, a result which had no parallel, except in the case of Blake's subsequent exploit at Teneriffe. The Bey made his submission, and accepted the residence of a Consular Agent. Tripoli submitted without a repetition of the lesson given at Tunis.

Blake now repaired to the western coast of Spain, in order to receive precise directions from Cromwell about the war with that country, which he knew to be imminent; and soon afterwards was ordered home to refit. At his own request he was once more associated with a general-at-sea—young Mountagu, the future Earl of Sandwich—and together they visited the dockyards and equipped a fresh fleet. He was wholly unfit to go to sea again; but he felt it to be his duty, and he was quite aware that this was the last time. At the head of forty ships he set forth in March, 1656, with orders to waylay the Spanish treasure ships. Autumn and winter cruising succeeded that of the summer, and the open Bay of Cadiz gave no protection from the furious gales of those seasons, which were fast wearing out the veteran. One of the Plate fleets at last appeared, and was taken by Stayner, who commanded a squadron under Blake, and thirty-eight wagon-loads of silver were paraded to London through the Southern counties. Part of the fleet under Mountagu was now ordered home, and Blake

was once more left alone with the rest, and with his many diseases. But his greatest exploit was to come.

Hearing that the other long-delayed Plate fleet had put into the harbour of Santa Cruz, in the island of Teneriffe, Blake instantly sailed in quest of it at the head of twenty-five ships. He arrived on April 20th, 1657, and found five or six galleons, three being flagships, and sixteen others, armed with brass ordnance and their full complement of men. The Governor, like the Bey of Tunis, defied him to do his worst. "We resolved," says Blake in his despatch, "to attack them, though they were close along the shore, which was lined with musketeers, and commanded by the castle and six or seven forts. Yet in four hours they were beaten, and all the ships driven on shore, except the admiral and vice-admiral, which resisted most; but by 2 p.m. one was fired and the other blew up; and by evening all the rest were fired, except two that were sunk. . . . To complete the mercy our own ships got off well, though some were maimed and had to be warped off; and the wind blew right into the bay, and the forts and castle continued to play upon us. We had only 50 slain and 120 wounded. . . . To God be all the glory." These pithy extracts require no comment. Writers of all parties concurred in admiration; and on account of the failure of Nelson on the same spot, its fame is still perhaps as bright as it ever was. Great were the rejoicings in England. The hero was ordered home; but scurvy and dropsy had done their work, and the *St. George* brought home only his dead body. He died at sea—"where Blake and mighty Nelson fell"—two hours before the ship anchored in Plymouth Sound. A splendid funeral at the public expense and a vault in Westminster Abbey awaited his honoured remains. From this vault they were transferred to the Churchyard at the Restoration. Is it too much to hope that at least a bust in the Abbey should some day commemorate one of the Makers of England, whose body had been consigned by the nation to its charge?

A biographer is not likely to be the best person to compare his hero with others. My fuller account of him, which is to appear in the autumn (in a book to be called "Twelve British Seamen," by naval officers), will be found to include more extracts from his despatches than I have had room for in this paper, and a fuller definition of the legacy which he left to his nautical successors. But enough has been said to enable everyone to judge for himself whether any other great naval officer ever had to deal with such consummate admirals as Tromp and De Ruyter, at the head of such prime fighters as the Dutch were in their first war ; whether any of them made so few mistakes, if he made any ; whether any of them served their country better than Blake did, both in public and private life, according to his lights. Let them further ask themselves whether any of them exhibited such a religious and moral character, such consistency, simplicity, disinterestedness, humility, and self-sacrifice. We cannot but erect him a monument in our hearts. Let us hope that the monument which, I am told, you are about to set up in his native place, looking down upon the familiar scenes which he longed to see once more before he died, may be worthy of this noble chief, of this celebrated county where he learnt his first lessons, and of the nation which he did so much to place at the head of Europe.

## The Alien Priory of Stoke Courcy.

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THE history of an alien priory is generally extremely chequered and diversified, forming a little chapter by itself in the midst of the more important ecclesiastical annals of our country, and, by its very presence, an *imperium in imperio*. Originally, the appropriation of English churches, tithes, and manors to foreign abbeys and religious houses sprang from the natural loyalty of the first conquerors of this country, in 1066, to their old homes. The whole number of alien priories in England was about one hundred, according to Dugdale, and one hundred-and-twenty according to another account. As time went on, and as the links between England and Normandy became weaker and weaker, the appropriation of English property for charity and other services abroad was felt to be a grievance. Men of Norman descent are the first to object to "corrodies" and the various *hospitia* that the foreign and imported monk took as his due. Whilst war was actually going on between England and France the revenues of the alien priories fell at once into the hands of the Kings of England, who suspended their use and farmed them out for their own benefit. Edward I laid hands upon them first of all, in 1285, on the occasion of war; and it appears from a Roll that Edward II also seized them, and to this the account of the restitution of 1 Edward III seems to apply.<sup>1</sup> In 1337, Edward III confiscated their

(1). *Rymer's Foedera*, tom. iv, p. 246.



estates and let out the priories, with all their lands, at his pleasure for twenty-three years,<sup>2</sup> at the end of which time, peace being concluded between the two nations, he restored their estates in 1361. In an *Abbreviatio Rot. Orig.* (Rot. 28), in Edward III's reign, a "Johannes Bakeler et Sibilla uxor ejus" acquire in this way the estates of Stoke Courcy Priory and Church. In Kirby's *Quest*, c. 1286, the name of Bakeler is amongst the "Burgenses" of Stoke Courcy Borough; and in 34 Edward III, John Bakeler appears as a member of Parliament for Stoke Courcy. In Nether Stowey, an adjoining parish, the church was appropriated by Robert de Candos, who held the Barony of Nether Stowey, to the alien priory of Goldcliff, in Monmouth. This was a cell of the abbey of Bec-Hellouin, in Normandy. But here, also, as in the case of Stoke Courcy, there is a sequestration and diversion of patronage. In the Calendar of Patent Rolls, July 23, 1378, there is an account of the presentation of John Smert, keeper of the "Chantry of Wynterbourne, to the Vicarage of Nether Stowey, in the Diocese of Bath and Wells, in the King's gift by reason of the temporalities of the Priory of Goldcliff being in the King's hands on account of the war with France." Long before this, in May, 1317-18, we read that Bishop Drovensford granted to John de Lanton, Prior, the guardianship of the sequestered churches of Nether Stowey, Puriton, and Woolavington, which had been uncanonically farmed to a layman by the Prior of Goldcliff, Rector.<sup>3</sup> In September, 1317, there is a sterner order: "The Bishop to Rural Dean of Poulet. The custody of the sequestered Rectories of Puriton and Woolavington we committed to W. de Osgodby, Clerk. He has been turned out of the Rectory by violence of some unknown. Therefore, denounce excommunication in churches of the Deanery, with full ceremony, and cite any known offenders to Wells Consistory." Here, indeed, was a pretty quarrel of

(2). *Ibidem.*

(3). S.R.S., vol. i, p. 130.

jurisdiction! Sequestration went on in the reign of Richard II, as we gather from Rym. *Foedera*. tom., vii, p. 697; also from Dugdale's *Warwickshire*, 2nd ed., vol. i, p. 37; and much land and property of these alien priories disappeared, no doubt into laymen's hands. Henry IV showed some favour to them (1399-1412), restoring all the Conventual ones, only reserving to himself in time of war what they paid in time of peace to the foreign abbeys. Their chequered career may partly be gathered from a glance at the patronage given in such a work as Weaver's *Somerset Incumbents*. There, for example, the right of presentation to Nether Stowey and to Stoke Courcy Vicarages is constantly shifting from the Alien Priory to the Crown and back again. However, the end came in 1414-15 (2 Henry V), when they were all dissolved by Act of Parliament. Henry VI endowed his foundations at Eton and Cambridge with the lands of the alien priories, although his father wished to appropriate them all to a noble college at Oxford. Thus we may now understand how Stoke Courcy and, with it, as original appropriations to the Priory of Stoke Courcy, the churches of Holford and Wootton Courtney are, at this present moment, all in the gift of Eton College; also why Nether Stowey is in the gift of the Dean and Chapter of Windsor. The historical association stretches far back, in the case of Stoke Courcy, to the pious wish of William de Falaise, at the time of the Norman Conquest. About fifty years ago, a pluralist—the Rev. J. Barnwell—united in his own person the Rectory of Holford and the Vicarage of Stoke Courcy, together with Lilstock, and so far represented, perhaps unconsciously, a large part of the original endowment.

There is one very important point in the history of alien priories, which certainly is especially illustrated in the annals of the Stoke Courcy foundation, and it is this, that their very existence was an eyesore to English bishops who wished to maintain ecclesiastical discipline within their dioceses. It was

galling to think that there was a nominating power *outside* the country which could send over priors and dump down unruly and licentious monks of a foreign nationality and compel the country to keep them. Bishop Drokensford is brought in conflict with the anomaly, and, as a disciplinarian, fights against it. The same bishop does not hesitate to attack such a powerful and thoroughly indigenous institution as the Abbey of Glastonbury, at a Visitation in March, 1312-13, and pronounces excommunication (reserving Absolution to ourselves), against those who, "owing to the illicit oathe of secrecy made to defeat correction," had combined together. However, he has no patience with the alien priory of Stoke Courcy, and takes strong measures to right matters there. It was not, therefore, a long step forward to object to all alien ecclesiastical influences, and in this way the abolition of alien priories in Henry V's reign paved the way for greater reforms and a wider programme.

Of the various sources of information about Stoke (or, as it was named when the De Courcy family inherited it from the Falaise family, Stoke Courcy) Priory, which Tanner gives us in his *Notitia Monastica*, that of the "*Cartae et Rentalia in archivis Eton. Coll. juxta Windsor*" is certainly the most interesting and, perhaps, the least explored. Allusion was made to them in vol. xviii p. 15, of the *Proceedings* of the Som. Arch. Soc., by the late Dr. Goodford, Provost of Eton; and Thomas Martin de Palgrave many years ago made extracts from them.<sup>4</sup> Through the courtesy of the Rev. W. A. Carter, Bursar of Eton College, the writer was enabled, last May, to have a look at the old documents themselves, and to make use of a private list of them belonging to the College authorities. They are contained in two boxes in the library (one of them labelled 19 B) and are very numerous, many of them, with fine seals attached, dating back to A.D. 1100-1200. For the information of archæologists, it may be said that there exists here

(4). See Catalogue of his Library, Bodleian, Oxford.

a large amount of valuable material still to be deciphered. In Collinson's *History of Somerset*, neither Stoke Courcy Castle nor the Priory are treated so fully as the Manor of Fairfield, originally a place of comparatively small importance, lying, curiously enough, in the Hundred of Williton, not Cannington, in which Stoke Courcy itself lies, and held formerly under the Chief Barony of Nether Stowey, where the baronial families of the de Candos, Columbers, and Audley reigned supreme.

There is no doubt that the original grant of St. Andrew's Church to the Church of St. Mary at Lonley, in Normandy, was made by William de Falaise and Geva his wife, and the fact of the original grant is mentioned in a Cartulary of Stoke Courcy Priory now at Eton College. Although this actual grant is not among the MSS. there, still there are confirmations of it, one by Robert, Bishop of Bath (1135-1165), and another by William, son of William de Curci, by consent of Gundrea, his wife, of the grants of his ancestors, viz. William de Falaise his great-grandfather, and William the son of Humphrey, who appears to have given with Emma his wife the advowson of Utton (Wootton Courtney). This document is instructive as it shows the relationship between William de Falaise and the de Courcy family, as successors to the Manor and Castle of Stoke (Courcy). With regard to Wootton it will be remembered that William de Falaise held at the Domesday Survey both Wootton (Courtney) and Stoke (Courcy), and thus the Wootton endowment is accounted for by family and territorial influence. From the Eton College Cartulary it appears that the object of the first endowment was "for the benefit of the soul of King Henry and others." Collinson simply says "for the soul of William de Falaise and his wife." Another grant by "Anketill the son of Herbert and Bercellina his wife," by consent of William de Eston (Idson, near Stoke Courcy) and his heirs, makes mention of a demesne called Hunesberegeland. This is the Hederneberia



of which Anshetill Parcarius was Domesday tenant *in capite*, who also held Edeveston or Idson under Roger de Corcelle.<sup>5</sup> It is now Honibere and a point about which Mr. Eyton was naturally in ignorance is cleared up. The above grant went to the Church of St. Andrew and the monks and to the Chapel of St. John the Evangelist adjoining the said Church of St. Andrew. This is the only mention I can find of their chapel. In another charter Honeberegeland is exchanged for "certain lands at Stayning." Honeberegeland or Honibere was a very old manor and gave a name to the tithing of Honibere. It lies to the north of Fairfield House, and was once the residence of a branch of the Luttrell family, whose monuments are still to be seen in the mortuary chapel at Lilstock.<sup>6</sup> Tradition has it that the site of Honibere Court is exactly that of a pond close to the road and almost facing the back entrance to Fairfield. Two ancient tracks, now marked on the Ordnance Survey as foot-paths, converge upon the old site of Honibere, one leading down from Kilton Hill head, known as Harborough or Harford Lane, a terminus still known to road contractors; the other, now only a field track, from the ancient farm of Plud, and in connection thus with "Portway" Lane, a suggestive route-name. With regard to Stayning, the other property, it has a most interesting old manor house, with oak staircase and panels, well worth a visit.

The earliest grants, however, to Lonley would be the church and tithes of St. Andrew, two parts of the tithes of Wiletun (Williton), Wootton (Courtney), two parts of the tithes of Lilstock. Lonley is described by John Nicholls, in his work on alien Priors,<sup>7</sup> as "a Benedictine Abbey in a town of that name in the Diocese of Seez, founded A.D. 1026, by William Talvast, Earl of Bellesme." As a natural sequel of this

(5). *Eyton's Domesday*, vol. i, p. 122, and vol. ii, p. 17.

(6). See also *Brown's Somerset Wills*, series 6, p. 16. Nicolas Luttrell, of Honibere, in Lilstock. Will dated July 5th, 1588.

(7). Vol. i, p. 104.



Somerset endowment there must have been constant communication between West Somerset and Normandy and Caen, a fact not to be lost sight of when we want to detect direct architectural and other influences. All alien Priories, as cells to the Mother Church, were links between this country and the Continent and sometimes had an educational value.

Subsequently, there are two very interesting confirmations of the original grant, one by Robert Fitz-urse, with the signatures of John Bret, Richard Fitz-urse, and Reginald Fitz-urse, with the seal attached and device of a bear (Fitz-urse), the other by Reginald Fitz-urse, both, apparently, belonging to the 12th century. Both of these refer to the Williton endowment, and the latter has the signatures of William de Curci and William Brito. In the first-named confirmation William de Falaise and his successors are termed the "ancestors" of the Fitz-urse family, and the relationship is shown, therefore, between the Falaise, de Courcy, and Fitz-urse families. It may be conjectured that it was through the de Falaise family that the Fitz-urse and de Bret families came to Williton and Sampford Bret, a point about which Collinson expresses himself as unable to form an opinion.

After the de Courcy and Fitz-urse grants and confirmations the deed of Hugo de Nevile excites our interest. His name, which in Dugdale's *Baronage* (vol. i, p. 288) is given erroneously as that of the original founder of Stoke Courcy Priory, signifies simply a change of ownership of the castle and manor. Hugo de Nevile married Joan, one of the two daughters of Alice de Curci, sister and heiress of John de Curci, Earl of Ulster, in Ireland, and son and heir of William de Curci.<sup>8</sup> Henceforth the de Courcys disappear from the place and are represented only in the female line.

A John de Curci and a Jordan de Curci subscribe to a grant of William de Curci the third, by which a mill at Norham, known as "Mervines Mill," is made over to the

(8). *Collins's Peerage*, vol. ii, p. 152.

monks of Stoke Courcy, and this John may be the warrior of Ulster fame.<sup>9</sup> There are two Pohers (Poers), William and Durand, who appear amongst the signatories also, and these may be of the family who went to Ireland. In the Rawlinson MSS., after speaking of the prowess of John de Curci, the writer says "though many were that in this fight that boldly did, natheles Roher le Power, that thereafter was of great myght in Ossory and in the county of Leghlin, was the other that best did." In the grant of Holford Church (1175), Roger Poher, Durand Power, and William Poher appear. It is curious that Collinson says nothing under his account of Stoke Courcy of the Irish exploits of the de Courcys. Nor can I discover that he says anything of the Poher, Power, or Poer family.

In the Eton deeds there are several grants and confirmations by the Poher family, who gave rent and money from Cnapeloc (Knaplock, in Cannington).

The importance of Stoke Courcy as a starting point for both Welsh and Irish expeditions must not be lost sight of by the antiquary. Growing up round the spring of St. Andrew, perhaps the "Fons et origo" of the whole settlement, and clustering round the Church of St. Andrew with its appanage of Little Stoke, or Lilstock, here was probably a very ancient station. The "Stoke" lay close to, if not upon, the main line of communication between the West of England and the Severn Valley and Caerleon. The river Parret was a notable boundary, the bailiwick or serjeantry of East and West Parret being well-known territorial definitions. The Normans, being skilful sailors, used the Parret and Bridgwater Bay as a base for further conquests. No sooner is Robert de Candos established at Nether Stowey Castle than he attacks Owen, the "dominus de Karlyon," and founds Goldclive, in Monmouth, to which he attached, as we have seen, Nether Stowey

(9). See "The English Conquest of Ireland." Early English Text Society. Rawlinson MSS.

Church. The Cogans of Huntspill, Reymond of Canteton (Cannington), and others cross over to Ireland (1100-1200) with Strongbow and the Welsh barons. It was a curious and doubtless an historical claim of Henry II that King Arthur, whose traditions are so well known along the valley of the Parret, should have had "truage out of Ireland." The royal associations of this part of England must not be forgotten. Cannington was an ancient demesne of the Crown, being part of the possessions of Edward the Confessor. After the battle of Hastings the mother of Harold flies to the Steep Holmes, just opposite Stoke Courcy and the mouth of the Parret. Tradition says that Beer manor, lying close under Cannington Park, was a royal hunting lodge. In Kirby's *Quest*, taken before 1286, the Queen of England held as a gift from the king the Vill of Wick, or Week, and the Hundred of Cannington, and with Wick tithing may have been associated the smaller properties of Burton, Knighton, and Stolford, in the tithing itself. Of these, Stolford, from its proximity to the sea and the Parret mouth, would be the most important, becoming the sea-port of Stoke Courcy rather than the rougher roadstead of Lilstock, comparatively a new landing-place. The ships of ancient times were of shallow draught and would lie better in the estuary and side overflows of the Parret, with their soft and muddy beds and with their advantages as natural dry docks, than on the rocky foreshore of Lilstock and the bays further west. Curiously enough, it is in the neighbourhood of Stolford that we find the oldest sites, so it would seem, of farm houses. In the Preface to the Tithe Commutation of Stoke Courcy (1840), a certain "modus decimandi" was said to be due to the Vicar of Stoke Courcy from what are expressly termed "the ancient farms" of Whitwick, Charleton, and Bartletts, all of which would appear to be close to Stolford. The name of "Bartletts" at Stolford, a small property now belonging to Mr. R. R. Rawlings, seems almost forgotten and is confused with "Bartletts," at Lil-

stock. Charleton farm has a field with the suggestive name of "Welsh Field," pointing, perhaps, to some over-sea connection. If, as the Stoke Courcy Priory deeds show, there was a Welsh endowment of Tyenton and Tregnu to the monks of Stoke Courcy, there was probably some ready means of communication kept up between Stolford and some point on the opposite coast. In the 14th century the Stoke Courcy monks had a chapel at Stolford. It must not be forgotten that the endowment of "Tienton and a church in Wales" was the gift of William de Falaise and Geva, his wife; so the Norman baron did not waste much time in stretching out his long and powerful arms to Wales, and we get a little light upon the first conquest of South Wales. With regard to the Church of Lilstock it would appear, from the Eton College deeds, that in the first grant of William de Falaise's, *two parts of the tithes* were given, together with St. Andrew's Church, Lilstock, being an appanage of Stoke, or Estocha, as it appears in Domesday. Subsequently, there is the further gift of the *advowson* of the church itself, and it appears from a Confirmation of Philip de Columbariis the Third, of the barony of Nether Stowey, that the original donor was his *grandfather*, Hugh Butler. There is a Hugh Butler, who appears as a signatory in the grant of Holford Church (*c.* 1175), who may be the same, as the dates coincide. If so, the *advowson* of Lilstock would have been given to Stoke (Courcy) Priory in the 12th century. Since then, Lilstock became, ecclesiastically, part of Stoke Courcy, until, by order of Her Majesty in Council (April 1st, 1881), the chapelry, as it was called, of Lilstock, was separated from the vicarage and parish church of Stoke Courcy and united with the parish of Kilton. The Incumbent is termed the Rector, Vicar and perpetual Curate of Kilton-cum-Lilstock. The nave, tower, and porch of Lilstock Church have been pulled down and the chancel alone remains, having been converted into a Mortuary Chapel. The old Norman font still remains there. The



patronage of the church has passed into the hands of the Bishop by an exchange with Over Stowey.

In the history of Stoke Courcy Priory the evils of an alien institution show themselves at various stages. In 1270, William, Bishop of Bath and Wells, sent a citation to Robert, Abbot of Lonley, lately Prior of Stoke Courcy, requesting him to answer for his maladministration of the affairs of the Priory by sending its property over the sea and burdening it with "corrodies."<sup>10</sup> The Bishop sends three of the Stoke Courcy monks to remain with the Abbot in France until an improvement in the condition of the Priory should allow of their return to England.

In 1316, there was an Inquisition or Commission issued by the active Bishop Drokenford,<sup>11</sup> to summon the chapter of Bridgwater Deanery and to ascertain how and when the vacancy in Stoke Courcy took place, what churches were appropriated and what were the means; also about the morals of the presentee.

In August, 1316, therefore, the Chapter held in Bridgwater Church, furnished the following statements for the information of the Bishop, who appears to have been greatly in ignorance of the affairs of this alien institution and to have determined to sift them. (1) That Lonley Abbey was the patron. (2) That the Priory was endowed with the churches of Stoke Courcy, Lillingstoke (Lilstock), and the sinecure chapel of Durberwe (Durborough), with all their tithes and oblations and two carucates of land, five acres of meadow, the whole worth forty-five marks, applicable to the use of the Priory, *i.e.*, therefore, with no vicarage endowment; the "complement" depending on the will of the Abbey. The Presentee was Giles Roussée, a Frenchman.

With regard to the above it does not appear that the sinecure chapel of Durborough (a manor, now a farm house, lying

(10). MSS. *penes Eton: Coll:*

(11). S.R.S., vol. i, 8.



about one-and-a-half miles to the south-west of Stoke Courcy) is elsewhere mentioned, as far as the writer can discover. At one time it belonged to Glastonbury, being the gift of Elflem, in pre-Norman times. Within the memory of man an offshoot of the Holy Thorn of Glastonbury used to grow there close to the lane, being visited on Twelfth Night by the country folk to see it burst out into blossom. The late Sir Peregrine Acland is said to have protected the last decaying branches with a wall. At the present time there is an early thorn, perhaps a slip from this, in Fairfield shrubbery. However, at Durborough the chapel and thorn are both gone. There is a field called Chapel Hayes which marks the site of the former, and an old wall indicates where the latter grew.

In 1326, the Priory came under the more severe scrutiny of Bishop Drokensford.<sup>12</sup> "The Bishop to the Abbot of Lonley, the Norman mother-house of Stoke Courcy Priory. Having found, on visitation, your Priory impoverished and neglected, containing the Prior and one Monk (the witness of his own innocence), some servants and useless folks sojourning there by your leave, the other monks living lecherously abroad, and being moved by Sir Robert Fitz-payne, patron, we decree that the sinning monks be sent to Lonley for correction, and that no more be sent to the Priory until it be reinstated through the Prior and our help."

In 1328, the Prior, Giles Roussée, who seems to have been a very worthless Frenchman, was superseded by the Abbot of Lonley,<sup>13</sup> as "alienator bonorum" (thus accounting perhaps for the disappearance of some Priory property), and Godfrey de Duc appointed. Bishop Drokensford institutes him to the Priory and to the Church of Stoke Courcy, and the Prior swore to maintain continuous residence and ritual, and the three resident monks swore obedience to the Prior (18th June, 1328); an oath which points to previous breaches of discipline.

(12). S.R.S., vol. i, 261.

(13). S.R.S., vol. i, 287.

The Rural Dean of Bridgwater is ordered to release the sequestration of the Priory. Curiously enough, it appears from the Bishop's Register that all this process was undone by the Prior's resignation, recited at full but no reason given.

Things, however, at Stoke Courcy, go on from bad to worse, and between the Castle and the Priory there is a good deal of friction and violence, Sir Robert Fitz-payne being at open war with the Prior. In the Calendar of Patent Rolls, March 8th, 1332, there is a "Commission of oyer and terminer to Philip de Columbariis of Stowey Castle, John Inge, and John de Fosse, on complaint of the Prior of Stoke Courcy that Robert Fitz-payne, Ela his wife, Robert le Chapleyne, John de Forde, parson of the Church of Okeford Fitz-payne, etc., at Stoke Courcy, co. Somerset, broke his houses, chest, and goods; took away a horse, a colt, and a boar, worth £10, felled his trees, dug in his quarry and carried away the stone and the trees, that they unyoked 10 oxen from the plough, drove them to the Castle, and that the said Robert Fitz-payne then impounded them and kept them in pound against law and custom of the realm, impounded 8 oxen, 120 sheep, 60 lambs, and 30 swine of his, and detained them until he made fine with the said Robert and Ela by 37 marks at divers times, and demised his tithe of sheaves and hay belonging to Stolford Chapel to the said John (de Forde?) for a term of years."

Sir Robert Fitz-payne turns to Cannington, of which the de Courcy family were patrons, to found a chantry for himself and his family, rather than to Stoke Courcy, and on January 28th, 1333, we discover in the Calendar of Patent Rolls a licence for the alienation in mortmain by Robert Fitz-payne, to the Prioress and Nuns of Cannington of eighty acres of land in Cannington and Radeweyes (Rodway Fitz-payne), held in chief, towards the support of a chaplain to celebrate divine service daily in Cannington Church for the soul of the said Robert, his ancestors and heirs.

Shortly after this the patronage both of Stoke Courcy and of Wootton (Courtney) lapsed into the hands of the Crown. In 1347, Edward III appoints William Jurdan as incumbent of Stoke Courcy and Wm. Boulton, in 1342, as incumbent of Wootton (Courtney), and in the Crown they both appear to remain until they both came into the hands of the "Praepositus Collegii beatæ Mariæ de Eton et idem Collegium."<sup>14</sup> The first Eton nomination to Stoke Courcy was in 1453. Just ten years previous to this there was an exciting episode in the annals of Stoke Courcy parish. John Vernay, of Fairfield, was cited in 1442 to appear before the Archbishop of Canterbury, to answer a complaint of Robert Vyse (the last Prior of Stoke Courcy), because all the time of High Mass in the Parish Church of Stoke Courcy he had preached to the people in English, using opprobrious words and calling on the people to obey him rather than the Prior and his Vicar.<sup>15</sup> It was evident that matters had reached a climax as between "the Squire and Parson" of Stoke Courcy. It was just about this date (1442) that the possessions of Stoke Courcy Priory passed, by the will of the king, into the possession of Eton College. About a century afterwards the larger monasteries were dissolved.

It took, therefore, more than one hundred years to break up the Monastic System in England, and perhaps in English history we do not assign sufficient importance to the first step, viz: the occasional appropriation of alien Priors to educational purposes. The Annals of Stoke Courcy point at an early stage to the revolt against foreign and papal domination. John Vernay, of Fairfield, might or might not have felt the indignation of soul which hardened into being the Cromwellian type many generations afterwards. But the protesting spirit had surely shown itself already in West Somerset.

As showing the ancient connection of Stoke Courcy with

(14). *Weaver's "Somerset Incumbents."*

(15). MSS. penes Eton. Coll.

Over Stowey, the grant which gives the "wood and pasture on Cantok" (Quantock) is very interesting. From it we learn the dedication of Over Stowey Church, viz. to St. Peter. Part of Over Stowey was an *additamentum* to W. de Falaise's property of Stoke (Courcy),<sup>16</sup> and up to the present day this part of Over Stowey pays land tax in the tything of Week or Wick Fitz-payne, in Stoke Courcy. The land tax levied on the vicarage of Over Stowey also used to be paid into Stoke Courcy; a certain portion been levied on Plainsfield, and a certain portion on Adscombe tything, and a certain portion on Bincombe tything. It was in December, 1806, that a part of this tax was redeemed. The manor of Week has a great prominence in Stoke Courcy Records. In 12 Henry VI, Elizabeth, the wife of Thomas Trivet, held amongst other lands the manor of Chilton, of Sir Robert Poynings, Knt., *as of his manor of Wyke*. In 1286, as already noted, the "*Domina Regina Anglie. consors Regis tenet villam de Wyge et Hundred. predictum (i.e. Cannington) pro v hidis terre de dono Domini Regis*". Therefore it was in the gift of Edward I.<sup>17</sup> It was handed on to Henry Percy, Earl of Northumberland, by his marriage with Eleanor, the heiress of the Poynings, Fitz-paynes, and Bryans. From this date it would appear to be known as Week Fitz-payne, just as Staple Fitz-payne, Cheddon Fitz-payne, and Cary Fitz-payne, etc., were named from this family. John II, Earl of Egmont (born February 24th, 1711), appears as "Lord of Duhallow, Burton Liscarrol, Kanturk, Lohort in Ireland, and of Enmore, Anderfeld, Spaxton, Tuxwell and Radlet, Currypole and Charlinch, Asholt, Eley (or Aley Green), Plainsfield, Over Stowey and Friron (Friarn), Quantock, *Week Fitz-payne and Windiates*, the Borough and Honour of Stoke Courcy, and the Hundreds of Anderfeld, Williton, and Freemanors." With regard to Windiates, it would appear to have been the name of the

(16). *Eyton's Domesday Survey*, vol. i, p. 123.

(17). *S.R.S.*, vol. iii, p. 17.



manor on which the old Castle of Stoke Courcy was built. Close by there is a "Wyndeates Lane," and under "Week Tything" two closes of ground are called parts of Wynnards or Windyates. "Windyates and Dorlea" are now in the possession of Colonel Rawlings, and the fields are close up to the very site of the old Castle. On the east side of the Castle are the demesne lands of the Stoke Courcy Priory with a field called "War Meadow"; a very euphonious name, considering the stormy fortunes of the old Castle.

The same grant is very interesting from a topographical point of view, as throwing a side light upon the old routes and trackways from the east to the west of the Quantocks. Allusion is made to the great road of Solmere on the lower part, and the great road called "Staw Herepat" on the upper part, to the head of Ramescuba (Ramscombe). It is interesting to trace where the Stoke Courcy monks had their privileges, for Ramscombe is a very definite point on the Quantocks, known to every sportsman, and it must have been up Seven Wells Combe. There is a "Friarn Wood" and a "Friarn Ball" there still. Along the Seven Wells stream is a very ancient boundary separating what is known locally as "Lords Customs" and "Ramscombe Customs." The higher Stowey Road is still a well-known feature, and the lower must have had its entrance at Seven Wells, where, not long ago, the "Squirrel Inn" existed, together with the little location, up the valley, of "Higher Old Cottages" and "Lower Old Cottages." At the entrance of "Seven Wells" there was more than one ancient communication. To this point Mr. Phelps, in his *History of Somerset* (vol. ii, p. 113), traces the trackway of British times leading from "Gaunts Farm" and Combwich passage to Cannington Park. From this park the route went from Horn Hill close to the park, in almost a straight line westwards past the famous Oakley Oak, one of the oldest trees in Somerset, but now, alas, a wreck of its former self. Within its bole, hollowed by age, it is said that



fifteen men dined not twenty years ago. From Keenethorne to the "Pear Tree Inn," Marsh Mills, Aley Green, the site fifty years ago of the old "Dial Inn," and up the ridge of Quantock, straight to Triscombe Stone, here is the line as clear as possible. The old routes between the valley of the Parret and the Quantocks are interesting in many ways, not the least because they furnish a link between the ancient Manors of Stoke Courcy, Wick, Rodway Fitz-payne in the valley, and the Domesday *additamentum* of Over Stowey on the Quantocks above. Along these roads, favoured by the Baron's charter, the Stoke Courcy monks drove their flocks to feed on the breezy uplands of the Quantocks, or fetched their wood and fuel.

The other Quantock document containing a letter or concession from Robert, Lord of Poynings, authorising, in 24 Henry VI, the Prior of Stoke Courcy and the Prioress of Cannington to fell a certain amount of wood on the Quantocks, is interesting also. The fact of this deed of gift seems still to be remembered amongst the country folk of Cannington and Stowey. The Cannington poor are said to have had privileges of gathering and cutting wood on the Quantocks, especially along Five Lords Customs to the east of Danesborough and along Bincombe.

The Eton College documents are useful also in the notices they afford of various influential families in the neighbourhood who subscribe their names to them as witnesses. Among them are Sir W. Malet, of Enmore; Sir W. Fichet, of Stringston, a branch of the Malet family, known also at Merridge, in Spaxton; Walter Russell, of Sydenham, connected also with Fairfield; many signatures of the Regny or Reigni family, this family being lords of Asholt on the Quantocks, as we learn from a charter of Barlinch Priory,<sup>18</sup> also the owners of Doniford, near Williton, granted to them in the reign of Henry II, by Richard Fitz-urse.<sup>19</sup>

(18). Som. Arch. *Proceedings*, vol. xxix, p. 76.

(19). *Collinson*, vol. iii, p. 491.

A Richard Fitz-urse appears in one of the Eton College Confirmations, viz., that of Robert Fitz-urse, where Reginald Fitz-urse is also a signatory. In this same charter is Roger de Raleigh, and in the Confirmation of William de Sancto Stephano, Simon de Raalee (Raleigh)—both, presumably, of Nettlecombe. There are several other names, *e.g.*, of the Chaudel, Poher, Labule, de Aura, and other families about which we might desire to know more.

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## II.

DOCUMENTS relating to property at Stoke Courcy (Stogursey), Wootton Courtney, Lilstock, Holford, Williton, etc., in the possession of Eton College, which throw light upon the foundation of the Alien Priory at Stoke Courcy and the Church of St. Andrew there.

A Cartulary of Stoke Courcy written on three membranes reciting several of the deeds already noticed. Among those of which the originals are not now to be found among the MSS. of Eton College, are the two following :

Grant by William de Faleisia and Geva his wife to the Church of S. Mary of Lonley of the Church of S. Andrew of Sutinstock (Stoke) with the tithes of the Parish and two parts of the tithes of Wiletune, two parts of the tithes of Lilstock (Lulinstocke) for Raunulf and the monks for ever for the benefit of the soul of King Henry and others. They also grant the whole tithe of Tientone and a Church in Wales with the tithe of a parish called Treigru given by Robert the son. This grant appears to have been issued under the great seal of King Henry I.

A grant by Anketill the son of Herbert and Bencellina his wife by consent of William de Eston their son and heir and of his heirs, for the benefit of their respective souls, of the soul of Roger son of the said William to the Churches of S. Mary and Lonley and S. Andrew of Stoke and the monks thereof and the Chapel of S. John the Evangelist adjoining the said Church of St. Andrew of certain lands at Monketon and of part of their demesne called Hunesberge lande (Honibere, near Stogursey.)

The others are—

Confirmation by Robert Bishop of Bath of the grants made by William de Faleisia and Gena or Geva his wife, to the Church of S. Mary of Lonlay, to wit, the Church of S. Andrew at Stoke, two parts of the tithe of Williton, two parts of the tithe of Lilstock, and the whole tithe of Tieton (in Wales) and of the grant of William the son of Humphrey and Emma his wife of the advowson of Wotton. Witnesses, Ivo, Dean of Wells ; Martin, Archdeacon of Bath ; Eustace, archdeacon of Wells ; Hugh de Turnay, Archdeacon of beyond Perret ; Hugh, Dean of Spakeston and others. Date 1135-1160.

N.B.—Robert of Bath died in 1165. Ivo was his Dean.

Confirmation by William son of William de Curci by consent of Gundrea his wife and his heirs to the Church of S. Mary of Lonlay and the monks thereof, of the grants of his ancestors, viz., William de Faleisia, his great grandfather, and William the son of Humphrey (filius Umfredi), William de Curci his grandfather and William his father, including a hide of land and of the Church of S. Andrew of Stoke and the advowson of the Churches of Uttona (Wootton Courtney) and Lullingstoke (Lilstock), etc. Witnesses. William his nephew, William de Reigni, Hugh Butler, William de Bainville, William Chaudel, Seward the priest, William de Staininges.

(12th Century.)

Confirmation by William de Curci, Steward of the King of England, of all the gifts of his predecessors to the Church of S. Andrew de Stockiis and the monks thereof. Witnesses, Simon Fitz-Simon, Hugh Golafre, William the son of Ralph.

Grant by William de Curci, Steward of the King, for the souls of his grandfather, William de Curci and his father William and all his relations and ancestors to the monks of S. Andrew of Stoke of the mill at Norham, which is called "Mervine's Mill," which he bought of Hugh Gulaferre. Witnesses, Geoffry the Prior, William the Monk, William Pantol, Seward the Priests, John de Curci, Jordan de Curci, Simon the son of P. William de Regni, William his nephew, William Poher, Durand Poher, Hubert Butler, Osbert de Estona, William Chaudel, Clement, Bernard, and Reginald. Fragment of fine equestrian seal attached.

Grant by Robert the son of Alfred to the Church of S. Andrew of Stoke of the Church of Holford. Witnesses, Sir Geoffry, Abbot of Lonlay, Hugerus, Gerin de Alenconis, Prior of Stoke, and fourteen others named, amongst whom are Durand Poher, Hugh Butler, William Poher, Roger Poher. This grant was made by consent of the grantor's wife Rosa and his son and heir Henry, A.D., 1175. Fragment of equestrian seal attached.

Grant by William the son of Reginald to the monastery of Stoke of the house of Legga and a rent of ten sticks (250) of eels and one great eel. Witnesses, Gilbert de Sartilli, Bernard de Crauthorne, Richard his son, and ten others named.

(12th Century ?)

Confirmation by Robert Fitz-urse by consent of John his heir to the Church of S. Andrew and the monks thereof of the gifts which his ancestors, that is to say, William de Faleisia and his successors, gave to the said Church, that is, of two parts of the tithe of Williton and grant of two parts of the clearing (assarti) which the grantor and his heir shall make. Witnesses, Adam de Bera, John Bret, Richard Fitz-urse, Reginald Fitz-urse, Brother William de Maleville, then Preceptor of the Knights Templar, Brother Roger de Ralegh, Brother Bernard, Ralph the clerk of Burge (Bridgwater), Ralph the clerk of Stoke who wrote this deed. Large seal attached, device a bear.

Confirmation by Reginald Fitz-urse of the grant of William de Faleisia to the Church of S. Andrew of Sutinstoke and the monks thereof of two parts of the tithe of the sheaves (garbarum) of the demesne of Williton (Weleton). Witnesses, William de Curci, Roger de Regni, William his son, William Breto, Ralph Denis (Daco), Simon Breto, Ralph de Careville, Hugh Walensis, William the son of Aco, Robert brother of the lord (Domini fratris), Ralph Poher, William the Clerk, who made the Charter, and Seward the Chaplain. Fragment of large seal with device of bear.

(12th Century.)

Grant by Hugh de Bonville (de Bona Villa) to the Church of S. Andrew of Stoke Courcy for the sustentation of the monks and in augmentation of former gifts, of part of his wood and pasture on Quantock (in Cantok) on the west side of the wood which he had given to the Church of S. Peter of Over Stowey (de Superiori Staw) extending from the bounds

which John Chaunel had placed in the said wood between the great road of Solmere on the lower part and the great road called "Staw Herepat" on the upper part, to the head of Ramescuba (Ramscombe). Witnesses, William de Columbers, Henry de Modiford, Alexander the parson of Otterhampton, Hugh the Chaplain of Edstock (Ichestoke), Geoffrey Chaudel, William Russell, Adam de Bere, William Flecher, Ranulf Harefot, Roger Albus, and others. Equestrian seal attached. (12th Century.)

Petition of Hugh de Bonville to Robert Bishop of Bath, for the maintenance and defence of the gifts made by him to the Church of S. Andrew of Stoke (A.D. 1135-1166).

Confirmation by Sibilla de Aura, relict of William de Sancto Stephano, for the souls of her deceased husband and her son, Robert de Sancto Stephano, and her parents and friends, of the grants of her ancestors to the Church of S. Mary of Lonley and the Church of St. Andrew of Stoke for the sustenance of the monks, to wit, a ferlong of the land of Aura which a rustic named Midewinter held, and the tithe of the said demesne of Aura. Witnesses, Ralph the son of William, John le Bret, Adam de Weckford, and five others named. Seal attached.

Confirmation by William de Sancto Stephano of the gifts of his ancestors to the Church of S. Andrew of Stoke and the monks thereof and grant of the tithe of nine acres of land in his demesne of Aura which he was not wont to pay. He declares that, by consent of the monks he will maintain a chaplain to minister in his chapel at Aura. Witnesses John de Regni, William de Columbers, William the chaplain of S. Decumans, William de Grindesham, Richard Labule, John Bretesche, Simon de Raalee (Ralegh?) William Fletcher, and others. Seal attached.

Confirmation by Philip de Columbariis the Third, of the deeds of his late father Philip son of Philip de Columbariis, and of his grandfather Hugh Butler, and his other predecessors, showing that the said Hugh granted the advowson of the Church of Lilstock to the Church of S. Andrew and the monks. Witnesses, Sir W. Malet, Sir W. Fichet, of Stringeston, Master John of Ivelcester (Ilchester), Master Daniel, parson of Wembdon, Thomas Trivett, William vicar of Stoke Curci, Walter Russell, of Sidenham. Fine seal attached. Device, a dove on a sprig of foliage.

Grant by Hugh de Neville by consent of his son and heir John to the monks of Stoke Courcy of the Church of S. Andrew of Stoke Courcy, the whole tithe of the parish, two parts of the tithe of Williton, two parts of the tithe of Lilstock, the whole tithe of Tienton, and certain rights of pasture in the wood called 'Cantoc,' and the chaplaincy of his household. Witnesses, Sir W. de Neville, Sir John de Regny, Sir Walter de la Grave, Sir Philip de Bartur, Geoffrey Chaudel, Adam le Bere, and four others.

Confirmation by William le Poher of the gift of his father Ralph le Poher of ten shillings from his rent of Cnapeloc (Knaplock in Cannington) to S. Andrew and the monks of Stoke. Witnesses, William de Estun, Hugh Fossard, William Chaudel, Robert de Estun, Osmund Lavel and others. Seal attached. Device, an eagle, somewhat in form of a fleur-de-lys.

Confirmation by John Poher of the gift of his father of a rent of 10s. to the Church of S. Andrew of Stoke and the monks thereof and grant of a rent of eight pence in augmentation of the same. Witnesses, Geoffrey de Derlega, William de Baugetripa (Bawdrip?), Geoffrey Chaudel, Hugh de Mara, Roger the chaplain of Stoke, Walter Chaudel, Geoffrey Fichet, and others. Seal attached. A fleur-de-lys.

Grant by Nicolas Poher to S. Andrew of Stoke and the monks thereof of land at Middleton. Witnesses, William Poher, Joan the mother of Nicolas. William de Reigni, Philip Poher, Fulk the son of Richard French, Hugh Fichet, Henry de Windesham, William de Fitinton, Richard Taillefer, Ralph the clerk who wrote this charter and others. Seal attached. Device, a fleur-de-lys.



Confirmation by Robert Poher of the gift of his father Robert Poher of a rent of 10s., and of the gift of his brother John Poher, a rent of eightpence to the church of S. Mary (?) of Stoke and the monks thereof. Witnesses, John de Reigni, William de Gridesham, William de Cnapeloc (Knaplock) and several others.

Confirmation by Robert le Poher as before with a further grant of 4d., payable by William de Cnapeloc. Witnesses, William de Columbariis, Geoffrey Chaudel, Robert de Eston, Richard Lebulle, knights; William Lebulle, William Flecher, Ralph Hayward, John his son, William Brun and others.

Confirmation by William de Cnapeloc of the gifts which Robert le Poer and his ancestors made to the Church of S. Andrew at Stoke Curci and the monks thereof. Attested by seal and by oath on the holy relics of the place. Witnesses, William de Draycot, William de Columbers, Robert de Eston, William Russell, William Lebulle, Ralph le Hayward, John his son, Walter Brun, John de Otterhampton, and others. Seal attached. Device, a fleur-de-lys.

Grant by William de Estona by consent of his wife Juliana and his heir to the Church of S. Andrew of Stoke and the monks of that place of certain lands at Stayning in exchange for lands at Hunesberigelond which had been given to the monks by his ancestors. Witnesses, Gs. Abbot of Lonlay, Walter Prior of Stoke and nine others.

Grant by Claricia de Bere to the church of S. Andrew of Stoke of half-an-acre of land in Inmeda. Witnesses, Master William de Spacton, Geoffrey dean of Cannington, Alexander the parson of Otterhampton.

Confirmation by Henry de Modiford of the grant made by his son Alexander to the church of S. Andrew of Stoke for the soul of his wife Helewis. Witnesses, Alexander Parson of Otterhampton, Hugh the Chaplain of Edstock, and ten others, among whom are William de Eston, Geoffrey Chaudel, Walter Chaudel, William de Mudiford. Seal attached. Device, a rose.

Confirmation by Robert de London of the gift made by William son of Humphrey and confirmed by William de Curci to the Church of S. Mary of Lonley, and the Church of St. Andrew of Stoke Courcy, viz., the Church of Wotton with its appurtenances, and grant of the land of Hunelham and the mill at Wotton. Witnesses, Maurice de Regni, John de Abend. Ralph.

Copy by John Vernay, of Fayrefield, Esq. (8 October, 34 Henry VI), of a letter from Robert, Lord of Poynings, Knight, dated 29 Nov., 24 Henry VI, authorising his woodward of Quantock (Cantocke), to allow the Prioress of Cannington and the Prior of Stoke Courcy to fell a certain quantity of wood. 'And if they goo any ofter or any wother wyse (otherwise) jan (than) I have ywrite (written?) to them take and sette ham yn pound fast and make ham delyverance upon borrowes.' The woodward is to receive 3s. 4d. a year for his services.

Citation from William, Bishop of Bath and Wells, to Robert, Abbot of Lonley, lately prior of Stoke Curci, to appear before him to answer for his maladministration of the affairs of the Priory by sending its property over the sea and burdening it with corrodiess. The Bishop sends three of his monks to remain with the Abbot until an improvement in the condition of the Priory shall allow of their return. A.D. 1270.

Notice of a citation of John Vernay, a layman, of the diocese of Bath and Wells, to appear before the Archbishop of Canterbury to answer a complaint of Robert Vise, Prior of Stoke Curci, that, at the time of high mass in the parish church of Stoke Curci, after the vicar's sermon, he had preached to the people in English, using opprobrious words, and calling on the people to obey him rather than the prior or the vicar. July 9, 1442. Seal of Archbishop attached.



Exchange of land between Vincent, Prior of Stoke Courcy. and the monks of that place, and Matilda the relict of Roger Rufus of Stoke Curci. Witnesses, Ralph Russell, of Fayrefield, William de Stennings, Walter de Dodeton, Thomas Alexander. Date 44 Henry III.

Grant by William de la Mora by consent of his heir to Robert the son of Ulwric of a field by the Parret in free marriage with Mabel his daughter. Witnesses, Sir Swar de Cantitune, Philip de Burci. William Testard, Geoffrey de Brunmore, Adam de Kettenore, Adam le Bere, Andrew de Bainville, Adam de Putterhill, Alexander the clerk and others. Seal attached. Device, a fleur-de-lys. Apparently this grant does not refer to the church.

The following are the authorities given by J. Tanner in his *Notitia Monastica*:

- (1) *The Monasticon Anglicanum*, and *Richard Prior's* Information.
- (2) *Dr. Archer's* account, p. 624.
- (3) *M. Rymer's* *Conventionum*, tom. viii, p. 104, de restitutione hujus prioratus alienig, 1 Henry IV.
- (4) *Cartae, Rentalia, etc.*, in *archivis Coll. Eton. juxta Windsor.*
- (5) *Collect. Thomae Martin de Palgrave*, mil. ex eisdem.
- (6) *Escaet. Somerset*, 1 Edward I, n. 6. Claus. 2 Edward I, m. i. de tertio denario in Wyke, Radeway et Stoke Courcy.
- (7) *Escaet. Somerset*, 49 Edward III, p. 2, n. 4, inquisitiones de omnibus terris.

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[1204, 3 Id. June. Confirmation to the prior and monks of St. Andrew Stokes of their possessions, especially the churches of Wotone, Lullinstoke, Hoilefort, Kichestoh [Idstock], two parts of the tithe of Corniton, the whole tithe of one enclosure of Cumba, two parts of the tithe of Wileton, two parts of the tithe of Lullinstoke, the right they have in the chapel of the castle of Stokes, one hide of land in the territory of the said castle, the land of Tinelande, one ferling of land, one acre of meadow, half a virgate of Breche, and a new mill; in Wales, the patronage of the church of Traigru; in Ireland, in Ulster, all the churches and benefices of the lordship of John de Curci, from the water of Dalnart to that of Kerlingfort, except the castle of Maincove, ten carucates of land in Ardes, that is, in the land of Maccolochan; in Dalboing, in Hailo, that is, the town and church of Arderashac, and ten carucates of land; in Kinelmolan, three carucates of land.

From Calendar of Entries in the Papal Registers, relating to Great Britain and Ireland (edited by W. H. Bliss), vol. i, p. 17.—ED.]

## The Horsey Family.

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BY JOHN BATTEN, F.S.A.

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THE family of de Horsey, or Horsey, has been, since the beginning of the 15th century, so closely associated with the county of Dorset, one is apt to forget that from a much earlier period they were seated in Somersetshire; their "dwelling-place," as Leland calls it, being at Horsey, a hamlet in the parish of Bridgwater called "Hursi" in Domesday book. From this place, which means in Anglo-Saxon, an island for keeping or breeding horses, they took the name of Horsey; unless we accept the more romantic derivation from the Saxon chieftain Horsa, who, with his brother in arms, Hengist, is said to have paid a *friendly* visit to our island in the fifth century. Be that as it may, their residence, until they acquired Charlton, was, as Leland says, at Horsey, and we may presume that an ancient chapel there, in which the Vicar of Bridgwater was bound to perform divine service every Sunday, was erected for their accommodation.<sup>1</sup>

The manor of Leigh Powlet in Devon, and Powlet in Somerset, were held of the manor of "Horsey neere Bridgwater, of which Philip de Horcy and Thomas de Horcy were owners in King Henry II's time."<sup>2</sup> But, in fact, both Horsey and Powlet were fiefs of the Lordship of Bridgwater, as, early in the reign of King John, Fulk Painell, whose family had inherited that

(1). Somerset Chantries, *Record Society*, p. 57.

(2). *Sir William Pole's Devon*, p. 210.

lordship from Walter de Dowai, the Domesday tenant, notifies by letter to Philip de Horsia that he had transferred to William de Briwere the services due from Philip for one knight's fee in Horci, one in Powletta, and one in Bue (Bower), and commanding him to acknowledge the said William as his future lord.<sup>3</sup> And these fees were afterwards held by Philip's son William de Horsey of the heirs of William de Briwerr.<sup>4</sup> Both Philip and William his son were witnesses to several other charters relating to lands in the neighbourhood of Bridgwater,<sup>5</sup> and Philip was one of the knights on the grand assize held 6th John for trying the right of Robert de Mandeville to the barony of Marshwood.<sup>6</sup>

It is said<sup>7</sup> that William de Horsey, son of Philip, sealed a charter s.d. with the arms *az.*, three horses' heads, couped at the neck, *or*, bridged *arg.* This was undoubtedly the coat of the family in later times, but without further verification it may be questionable whether the use of allusive or canting arms had been introduced at so early a period as the reign of King John.

This William (I) had a son of the same name (William II), who, by charter s.d., wherein he is described as "William son of William de Horsya," granted to Edward Hatherick the land in Pedredham juxta Combwich, which William his father gave to the said Edward and Adam his brother,<sup>8</sup> and by another charter (also s.d.) William Avenell, son of Nicholas Avenell, acknowledged that "William de Horsya son of William de Horsya" had done his homage for the land of Swindon (Wilts), which William the father formerly held.<sup>9</sup>

(3). Charters of Duchy of Lancaster, no. 79. 35th Report D. K. Records, App. II.

(4). Testa de Nevill, p. 200.

(5). *Ibid.*

(6). Historical Memorials of South Somerset, p. 120.

(7). Notes and Queries, 5th series, vol. xi, p. 409.

(8). Harl. MS., 4120, f. 17.

(9). *Ibid.*

William de Horsey (II) increased his Somersetshire possessions by the purchase of a moiety of the manor of Charlton Mackerel. That manor, with the adjoining one of Charlton Adam, was part of the Barony of Arundel (so called from Roger Arundel, the Domesday tenant), which, in the reign of Richard I, was held in moieties by Robert de Pole (ancestor of the Fitzpayns) and Roger de Newburgh. Roger being an infant, the wardship of his estates was granted by the crown to Robert Belet.<sup>10</sup> It does not appear how the Belets acquired the inheritance, but from the record of an assize 7 and 8 Edward I, between Robert Fitzpayn and John de Horsey (I), respecting the church of Charlton Mackerel, we learn that William de Horsey (II) "purchased a moiety of the manor of William Belet son of Robert Belet, and this is confirmed by the fact that William Belet, by deed under his seal of three escallops, with the legend 'Sigill. Willi. Belet,' and dated 41 Henry III, acknowledged the receipt from William de Horsey of £100 at different times, for the land at Charlton."<sup>11</sup>

John de Horsey (I), who died in or before 22 Edward I, leaving his wife Cristina and a son and heir, William (III), surviving. By an inquisition taken after his death, of the yearly value of his lands, it was found that he was seised in fee of half a knight's fee in Charlton Mackerel, for which he owed suit at the Hundred Court of the King at Somerton, and that his mansion (*curia*), with the garden, was worth by the year — shillings. Also rents of assize, 8*s.*; customary works, 18*d.*; pleas and perquisites of court, 12*s.*; a dovehouse, 2*s.*; one moiety of a watermill, 6*s.* 8*d.*; eight acres of arable 26*s.* 8*d.* each acre, 2*s.*; twenty acres of meadow 20*s.* each acre, 12*s.*; also pasture in different places, 2*s.* 8*d.*; total, 73*s.* 6*d.*, together with the right

(10). *Dugdale's Baronage*, vol. i, p. 614, and see *Fine Div. Cos.*, 9 Hen. III, no. 42.

(11). Harl. MS., 4120, f. 4. His wife was probably Elizabeth, daughter and coheirress of Sir William de Reigny (*Pole's Devon*, p. 324), by whom he left a son.

of presentation every other turn to the church of Charlton Makerel worth 20*s.* The jury also found that he held the manor of Horsey of the heirs of Patric de Chaworth by service of half a knight's fee, that the "curia" with the curtilage was worth 2*s.*; rents of assize 74*s.* 6*d.*; customary works 2*s.*; pleas and perquisites of court, 4*s.*, including "capitagium garcioni" (a peculiar and unusual manorial custom, probably a poll tax on the "villeins:" *see* Ducange, *sub* capitagium); a mill, 6*s.* 8*d.*; 122 acres of arable, 62*s.*; seven acres of meadow, 16*s.* 6*d.*; total value of Horsey, £11 12*s.* 6*d.* Besides the above he held of Lord Simon de Montacute a tenement called Sydewere, worth 25*s.* a year; also one eighth part of a knight's fee in Asolte (Asholt, Somerset,) of the heirs of Hugh de Neville, belonging to the manor of Radeway (Radeway Fitzpayn in Cannington parish). Lastly, it was found that William de Horsey was his son and heir, and aged 18. In consequence of the son's minority, the crown had taken possession of lands held by his father in addition to those already mentioned, but they were claimed by the widow, Cristina, as her jointure, and, on an enquiry held by the eschaetor, proof being adduced that more than ten years before Cristina and her husband had been jointly enfeoffed of lands in Stables Newton (in the parish of West Newton?) by Walter Fichet under the service of one eighth part of a knight's fee and a rent of 5*s.* payable to James de Gardino and suit twice a year at the court of John de Erlegh of Migheles chirche (Michaelchurch), these lands were restored to the widow.<sup>12</sup> She married for her second husband Sir Hugh Popham, probably a neighbour at Huntworth close by, who left her a widow again in 1321, and she died in 1330, having made a will from which it appears that she retained (which was not unusual in those times) the name and arms of her first husband. The following is an ancient translation of it:

"I Cristian Horsey make my testament in the yeare of our Lord God 1330 first I committ my soule to God and

(12). Eschaetor's Inquisitions, *citra* Trentam, series I, file 7.



all saintes and my body to be buried in St. Francis Church in Bridgwater. I give xis. for a trentall for my soule. To my daughter Alexandria I give my best ewer and basin. To Ralph Horsey I give a payre of wheelles of a wayne and the plough withall. To Jeane Stawey my whole wardropp. Executors, John son of John Popham, John Stawey and John Horsey. Seale 3 horse heds in a seucheon.”<sup>13</sup>

William (III) died in 1327. He held the estates of Charlton and Horsey, and also that at Swindon which had descended to him from his ancestor, William (II). His wife, Matilda, survived him, and, as her husband held his lands direct of the king, she was subject to that wholesome feudal restraint which checked the vagaries of widows, and her dower was conditional on her engaging on oath (to be taken in the presence of his son and heir if he chose to attend) that she would not marry again without the king's consent.<sup>14</sup> John (II), son and heir of William (III), died in 1338 s.p., and was succeeded by his brother Ralph de Horsey, who was one of the collectors of subsidies for the county. He probably resided at Charlton, in an ancient house, called Horsey Court, and he was the founder of the chantry there, mentioned by Collinson, vol. ii, p. 193. After him the name De Horsey seems to have been dropped. His grandson, another John, was the first of the family who allied himself to the county of Dorset by his marriage with Elena, daughter and heiress of Philip Maubanc, the owner of the manor of Clifton, near Sherborne, called after him Clifton Maubanc. As we shall not have occasion to allude to Charlton any more, it may be as well to note down for the benefit of future inquirers, that on the death of Sir John Horsey of Clifton, in 1588, it descended in moieties to his sisters, Mary the wife of Richard Arnold, and Elizabeth the wife of Sir William Mohun. The Arnold moiety came to Ann and Mary,

(13). *Pole's MSS. Collections*, Queen's College, Oxford, no. 151.

(14). *Close Rolls*, 1 Edw. III, memb. 27.

sisters and coheiresses of Hubert Arnold, who sold it in 1675 to James Samson, who, in 1709, purchased the Mohun moiety of Charles Bodvile, Earl of Radnor. On his death in 1713, the entirety, by his will, vested in his son James Samson, junr.<sup>15</sup>

By virtue of several settlements referred to in inquisitions p.m., which it would be difficult and unprofitable to unravel in detail, Clifton, as well as Horsey and Charlton, and some other lands in Somerset, devolved, in 1422, on Henry Horsey, son of Sir John Horsey, knt.,<sup>16</sup> and after his death it was found by inquisition that he died, 30 Henry VI, seised of three hundred acres of land at Pegenasse (practically Horsey), of half the manor of Charlton, and of the manor of Clifton Maubanc, and that Thomas Horsey, his brother, was his heir.<sup>17</sup>

Thomas did not succeed to his inheritance without resistance, for Henry in his lifetime, by deed poll, said to be dated 18th February, 33 Henry VI (*i.e.*, three years after his death, according to the inquisition) had settled his estates (subject to a life interest to his wife Johanna) on himself and his issue, with a limitation over to James Ormonde, Earl of Wilts, in case of attempted alienation. As the document is rather an extraordinary one, and is exemplified by the common seal of the borough of Bridgwater, I append an abstract of it from the Close Roll (38 Henry VI, memb. 10).

Deed poll (in English) under the hand and seal of Henry Horsey, esq. Reciting that he had by deed bearing date the last day save one of November, 33 Henry VI, enfeoffed John Ormond, esq., Humphry Stafford, esq., Alexander Hody, esq., William Bronyng, esq., Henry Fylongby, esq., William Bokedon, esq., William Correwyn, esq., James Frampton and William Billman, in and of his manors of Horsey and Chareltoun Makerell with their appurtenances, with the advowson of the church of Charlton Makerell and of all his lands in Horsey and Charlton aforesaid, Pegenasse and elsewhere in the county

(15). MS. in my possession.

(16). Esch., 1 Hen. VI, no. 28.

(17). Esch., 1 Edw. IV, no. 25.

of Somerset, to hold to them and their heirs for ever. And reciting that he had by another deed dated 1st December, 33 Henry VI, enfeoffed the same persons in and of the manor of Clyfton Maubanke, in the county of Dorset, with the advowson of the church or free chapel of the same, to hold to them and their heirs for ever, to the intent to perform thereof his will. He declared his last will and full entent to be that his said feoffees should make estate of all said manors, lands, advowsons, &c., to James, Erle of Wilts, and to one other person to be named by the said erle, to hold to them and their heirs for ever. And that the said erle and other persons after the said estate so made to them should give the manor of Horsey to him the said Henry Horsey and Johan his wife and the heirs of his body and all other the said manors, advowsons, &c., to the said Henry Horsey and the heirs of his body upon this condition, that if he the said Henry Horsey or any of his heirs should alien the said manors, &c., or any of them to any person in fee simple, fee tail, or term of life of any person save of his own in the manor of Horsey it should be lawful for the said erle and other persons or their heirs to re-enter into the said manors to hold to them and their heirs to the use of the said erle and his heirs for evermore, and this he declared to be his full will and intent of the feoffment aforesaid. Dated 18th February, 33 Henry VI.

N.B.—The feoffments are also enrolled in Latin and releases as well. Seal of the borough of Bridgwater affixed. Witnesses (to one), Humphry Courteny, knt., Hugh Malet, esq., Robert Warre, esq., and others. (To another), William Poulet, knt., John Sydenham, esq., Alex. Lynde, esq., and others.

The Earl of Wilts seems to have set up some claim under this deed, but it was set aside probably on the ground that Henry had no right to settle the estates. And Thomas having recovered possession died seven years after, leaving an infant son and heir John, who in due time married Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Richard Turges, of Melcombe, and so acquired another large domain in Dorset, which soon became known as Melcombe Horsey.

We need not pursue the pedigree of the main line any further, as it is set out in Hutchins and in the addenda to the Dorset Visitation of 1623, but there was a branch (only casually noticed by Hutchins) seated in the reign of Henry VI near Bridport, which had acquired very considerable property from another source.

In the reign of Henry IV or V a certain Henry Horsey had married Alianor, one of the daughters of Thomas Bingham and Mary, his wife, daughter of Sir Walter Romsey, knt., of Rockborne, Hants. By failure of his male issue his granddaughters, the above Alianor Horsey and her sister Joanna, wife of Thomas Kelway, became coheiresses of the Romsey estates, including one third of the ancient barony of Byset, of which the overlordship of the manor of Clifton Maubanc formed part; and it is a singular coincidence that at the time now referred to, the mesne ownership of Clifton was held by one branch of the Horsey family, and the overlordship by another. Both sisters were married before 3 Henry V (1416), as in that year they were parties to a deed wherein they are described as Henry Horsey and Alianor his wife, daughter and coheir, with Joanna, the wife of Thomas Kelway, of Thomas Bingham and Mary his wife.<sup>18</sup> Henry Horsey and his wife, Alianor, were succeeded by their son and heir, William Horsey, who died in 1448.

By the inquisition after his death<sup>19</sup> it is found that he held the manor of Bingham's Worth, the manors (*i.e.*, the overlordship) of South Perrot and Clifton Maubanc, the manor of Ocle (Oakley in the parish of Chilthorne Domer), lands at Otterhampton, Combwich and Pipplepen (in North Perrot), one third of the manor of Mudford Terry, and land at Adber (in Trent); and that Thomas his son, aged seven, was his heir. All these estates had descended to him as his share of the Romsey estates, except Bingham's Worth, which came from

(18). Historical Memorials of South Somerset, p. 44.

(19). Esch., 26 Hen. VI, no. 26.



Thomas Bingham, who was a member of that branch of the Bingham family which held for many generations estates in West Dorset, and was known as Bingham of Bingham Lodors.<sup>20</sup>

William Horsey resided at Rockburn, and there his son Thomas was born on the 8th February, 144 $\frac{9}{7}$  (19 Henry VI), and baptized in the church there on the same day. On the death of his father, in 1448, his estates (being held in chief) were taken in wardship by the crown, and on his coming of age it was necessary that he should prove the fact before he was let into possession. According to the legal procedure of that day, this was done by the production of witnesses who could depose to the day of the birth before a jury empanelled by the eschaetor. It was a clumsy contrivance, but the best that could be adopted in the absence of parish registers, and it is interesting as giving us an insight into mediæval domestic life. In the case now before us, no less than twelve witnesses vouched for the birth and baptism, each witness explaining the grounds of his recollection. One recollected it because on the same day he fell into a pit and broke his arm; another, because he carried a torch in the church on that day; another, because on that day he took a lease from William Horsey, the father, of a farm in Rockburn for ninety-nine years; another that whilst he was in the church he heard that Maud the wife of Nicholas Ormonde had brought forth a son, whose name was William; another, that he was in church with the suite of William Horsey, and before he went from his presence he bought a mare three years old from one John Besteryle, the farmer of the demesne lands of Rockburn; and the last remembered the day because there was a high wind which blew down a "beche" tree.

Thomas Horsey resided at Bingham's Worth, and settled it as a jointure on his wife Ann, a daughter of John Wykes or Wyk of Bindon, near Axmouth. This appears by a charter dated at Bynedon, 3rd Edward IV, whereby Thomas Horsey

(20). Cal. Pat. Rolls, 8 Edw. I, m. 10d (44).



grants to John Wyk, Walter Cheverill, and John Scovyll, rector of Charborough, his manor of "Bynham ys Othe,"<sup>21</sup> to hold in fee, yearly rendering one rose. The witnesses are John Newburgh, William Browning, John Russell, William Frampton, William Oliver, Thomas Porter, and others, and it is indorsed "Junctura Anne Horsey."

By another deed, dated 20th July, 1 Richard III, the above John Wyk and John Scovyll (who had survived William Cheverell) granted a lease of Bingham's Worth to Humphry Baskervisle, esq., for his life, with remainder to "John Horsey, son and heir of Thomas Horsey," in fee. Witnesses, William Mountague, John Pokeswell, Henry Hyde and others.<sup>22</sup>

The mention of John Horsey as son and heir of Thomas is very puzzling, for Thomas died in or before 1477, and by the inq. p.m. (17 Edward IV, No. 46) his heir was his son William Horsey, an infant only four weeks old. He inherited an estate of 200 acres at Saltford near Bath (part of the Barony of Byset) and four messuages and 160 acres of land in Chilthorne Domer (held of the Honor of Gloucester), and also the manors of Okley Hill, New Hill (in Chilthorne), and Littleton (held of the Earl of Sarum). According to the Dorset and Wilts' Visitation of 1565,<sup>23</sup> Thomas, his father, resided at Bridport (Burport), about three miles from Bingham's Worth, and there we may presume he was buried. In Harl. MS. 111 there is a note of an inscription (taken no doubt from a memorial in the church where he was buried), "Orate pro anima Thomas Horsey filii et heredis Witt Horsey qui obiit 1477." Bingham's Worth is not mentioned in the inquisition, but it must have continued in the Horsey family for many years, as in a conveyance in 1636, it is stated to have been "heretofore the inheritance of Thomas Horsey of Damerham, Wilts, esq., and Bartholemew Horsey, his father."<sup>24</sup>

(21). Old English for "Bingham's Worth." Worth, in Anglo-Saxon, means an inclosure or homestead.

(22). Charters in my possession.

(23). Harl. MS. 888, p. 44.

(24). Harl. MS. 888, p. 44.

## Athelney Abbey.\*

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BY THE LATE REV. THOMAS HUGO, F.S.A.

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[Hugo, Thomas (1820-1876), the Bewick collector, eldest son of Charles Hugo, M.D., was born at Taunton in 1820. B.A., Worc. Coll., Oxon., 1842; rector of West Hackney from 1868 to his death; F.S.A., 1853. His special province in literature was as historian of religious houses in the West of England, the original sources for whose history he was the first to study thoroughly. He was also the writer of several dramas, but he was best known for his extensive collection of the works of the brothers Bewick of Newcastle, which included many of the original wood-blocks. His three works 1866, 1868, and 1870, on the wood-cuts and wood-blocks of T. and J. Bewick are exhaustive on all points. As a musician he was a facile writer, and contributed several pieces to *Hymns Ancient and Modern*. He died after a short illness at West Hackney Rectory, on 31st December, 1876, and was buried in Highgate cemetery on 6th January, 1877, aged only 56.—Abridged from *The Dictionary of National Biography*.]

IN the midst of the enormous level through which some of the principal rivers of Somersetshire find their way to the sea, is a small and slightly-elevated point of rising ground, whose claims to notice, for historical interest and for physical character, would seem at a first inspection to be pretty equally balanced. The traveller, indeed, would be almost certain to pass it without remark, unless he had a companion to whom the place was known, or if his eye failed to detect, as it might easily do, a small white obelisk which crowns the summit, and tends, if nothing more, to excite his curiosity. Eminence and obelisk, however, have little in themselves to attract attention, even amid that monotonous plain above which they scarcely appear to rise. And yet there is hardly a place in England whose name is more famous, or the history of which during one

\* British Museum Additional MS., 30,288, ff. 9-83.

brief moment is more affectionately remembered. Its subsequent annals, indeed, are all but forgotten—a result in some measure to be accounted for from the fact that the account of them has to be obtained for the most part from sources which few are found to explore, and from which most are repelled by the strangeness of the features with which they are accompanied. That history, however, although it relates to a religious house in a retired situation and of small revenues, is a singularly instructive one. Commencing as it does just a thousand years ago, the changes which have befallen such establishments, nearly from the time of their first introduction into this country to the final catastrophe, are here conspicuously represented. Added to this, almost every department of conventual life, whether usual or otherwise, is successively and in detail brought before us. And the pleasure is great, that so much can even now be recovered in connection with a spot so apparently destitute of human interest, whose end so falsifies and misrepresents its beginning, and whose present so negatives and belies its past.

The isle of Athelney is situated on the north side of Stanmoor, in the parish of East Lyng, and is about four miles south-west from the town of Bridgwater. It lies on the north bank of the Tone, about one mile above the confluence of that river with the Parret, on the outside therefore, and not, as frequently supposed, between those streams. It consists of an island of two low eminences, divided by a shallow depression which is, nevertheless, some feet above the vast level that stretches on every side around. The island is composed of red marl, and is twenty-four acres in extent, eleven-and-a-half acres being the complement of the eastern and slightly higher eminence, which was occupied by the Monastery, and twelve-and-a-half acres that of its fellow. It is still not unfrequently an island in fact as well as in name, although furnished with a high embankment between it and the river, and has to be reached in boats during the months of usual winters. On the eastern eminence

is a pleasant farmhouse, erected about eighty years ago, generally backed by a goodly group of hayricks and wheat-mows, and above it the obelisk already referred to. The river is crossed by a bridge of wood, similar to many that still adorn the picturesque river which flows beneath. But the eye looks in vain for any indications of the ancient glories of the place. Luxuriant crops wave on the gently swelling eminence, but of the graceful structure which once crowned and glorified it not one stone remains *in situ* to make us conscious of the treasure which we have lost.

To the lover of our older history there is scarcely a spot that can call up recollections more full of interest than that about which these pages are to discourse. That interest, however, as I said, has hitherto been for the most part associated with one single actor and with one single age. It is as the scene of the retreat of the noble Saxon king, the truly great Alfred, that most men are conscious of a reverential regard for the humble isle of Athelney. Its after fortunes are little known. It was far removed from the busy world, and was the home of a community with which the chroniclers of battles and sieges and the rise and fall of kingdoms had very little to do. It has been said by men well qualified to pronounce a judgment on the subject that "of the history of that community from the end of the eleventh century to the dissolution less is known than that of almost any other."<sup>2</sup> I am about to endeavour to supply in some measure that deficiency, at least so far as a long and careful search into records of every description both in MS. and print will enable me to do so. And I think I can promise my reader that not much will remain for him to collect when he shall have mastered what shall now be presented to him.

Athelney Abbey owed its foundation to the piety of King Alfred the Great. All the more ancient chroniclers unite in

(2). *Dugdale's Mon.* ii, 403.

attributing to him the honour of the work.<sup>3</sup> It was done in performance of a solemn vow, as a thank-offering both for the security which he had enjoyed amid the impassable morasses by which the place was on every side surrounded, and for the good success which had crowned his efforts, when, released at length from his involuntary retirement, he had placed himself at the head of his re-assembled forces, and had become in his turn the master of the field. He had been forced to fly from a vastly superior force, and had betaken himself for safety to a region whither few would be found to follow him. He found shelter, according to the Register of the Abbey, in a small cottage belonging to St. Athelwine, son of King Kyne-gilsus, who had been a hermit here.<sup>4</sup> It appears that he soon made some attempts to increase by art what had been effected for the place by nature. The Saxon Chronicle, under the year 878, tells us that at Easter, which fell on the 23rd March, the king with a small band constructed a fortress at Ethelinga-eigge, and that from this fortress, with the men of that part of Somerset, from time to time they fought against the army. This statement is repeated by Asser, Simeon of Durham, Aethelweard, Florence of Worcester, Geoffrey Gaimar, John Wallingford, Henry of Huntingdon, and others. Ingulphus adds that after his successes over the Danes he turned this fortress into the monastery.<sup>5</sup> Asser, whose account is most valuable from his having visited the place as chaplain to the royal founder, describes the place as surrounded by a vast extent of impassable morasses and water, adding that no visitor could reach it except by boat, or by a bridge, which, I presume, owed its construction to Alfred himself; and the fort as excellently constructed—"arx munitissima pulcherrima operatione consita est"—and as attached to a bridge which

(3). MS. Harl. 261, ff. 27*b*, 104*b*, *al.* 107*b*. MS. Cott. Nero D. ii, f. 80 *al.* 86. Asser, Simeon Dunelm., Flor. Wigorn., Will. Malmesbury, John Glaston., i, 112. Leland Coll., ii, 218. *Ibid.* i, 26, 43 78.

(4). Regist. Abb. Atheln., *Collinson* i. 86. Leland Itin. iv, pt. ii, p. 135.

(5). Ingulphus sub ann. 872.



connected the island with the opposite bank of the neighbouring river, and had another tower at its eastern extremity.<sup>6</sup>

It is said that the place derived its name of *Æthelinga-eigge*, or, as the chronicles translate it, "*Clitonum*" or "*nobilium insula*," the isle of nobles, from the temporary habitation of the sovereign and the constant resort of his nobility during that period. It soon changed into *Athelinganye*, *Ethelingey*, *Aliennia*, *Adelingen*, *Athelygneye*, etc., until, long before the Dissolution, it had taken the form which it still assumes.

The main reason of Alfred's selection of the place, was, according to the legend, a vision of Saint Cuthbert which had been granted to him during his retreat amidst its solitudes. He had at that time little prospect of success against his own and his country's enemies, and his Somersetshire fastness was likely to become the scene of a life-long banishment. It was then that the sainted Bishop of Lindisfarne is related to have visited him. He was sleeping for sorrow, as the chronicler relates, and his attendants were gone to fish in the neighbouring river. Cuthbert declared to him that he was sent from Heaven to assure him of an early restoration to his throne. The saint added that his words should be verified by the return of his servants laden with fish, whereas there had been only too great a probability that, as the river was entirely frozen over, they would have returned as empty as they went. He ended by exhorting him to put his trust in God, and to accept the words that he had heard as proceeding from God's messenger. The same vision was granted to the king's mother, then also at Athelney, and while they were communicating to each other what they had thus supernaturally learned, the servants entered with the promised supplies. On this the king is said to have solemnly vowed that the scene of so gracious an interposition should be the site of a house which should for ever keep the blessing in remembrance.<sup>7</sup>

(6). Asser, ed. Camden, p. 18.

(7). Will. Malmesbury, ed. Savile, p. 43.

The place was indeed naturally endeared to the mind of the pious and grateful king, and we are told that he used to relate in happier days, and to favoured companions, not only the privations which he had endured, but the many blessings which he had here enjoyed.<sup>8</sup> It was the scene not only of that solemn vision to which I have just referred,<sup>9</sup> but of the visit of the beggar to whom he gave a part of his last loaf, and was soon afterwards rewarded by an abundance of provisions, and of the homely adventure with the cowherd's wife, when, as she remarked, although he was quite ready to do good service in eating the cakes, he took no care to prevent them from burning.<sup>10</sup> It was during his retreat also, amid the seclusion of this unknown spot, that he prepared himself for his visit to the enemy's camp in the disguise of a harper, and thus gained a knowledge of their numbers and position.<sup>11</sup> And it is alleged that he entertained so profound an impression of all that he had here undergone, and so high an opinion of the character of Denewulf, the swineherd, upon whose hospitality and fidelity he had been dependant on his first arrival at Athelney, that he ever regarded the scene of the former with peculiar interest and subsequently raised the latter even to the episcopal throne of Winchester. We can hardly wonder that the locality of so many and touching events was possessed of a solemn charm and fascination of its own for one whose heart was so sensitive, so tender, and so true.

A question, however, is raised by Reyner whether the monastery was actually founded by King Alfred, or so enlarged and endowed by him that he deserves to be called its founder. He inclines to the opinion, with which Spelman agrees, that it had a greater antiquity than that usually assigned to it, because in the first place the abbey was dedicated to St. Egelwine, the brother of King Kenewalh, who reigned before the death of

(8.) Will. Malmesbury, ii, p. 121.

(9.) Asser.

(10.) Asser, p. 9. John Wallingford, p. 537.

(11.) Ingulphus, p. 869. Will. Malmesbury, ii, p. 121.

Archbishop Paulinus, and secondly, because the charter of endowment which Alfred granted to the monastery, insinuated that he enlarged rather than founded the House—"non fundationem sed amplificacem monasterii insinuat."<sup>12</sup>

He admits, however, that Asser describes the monastery as recently founded, and honestly adds that he quotes him the more willingly from the fact that the assertion had come with the authority of an eyewitness, as Asser is well known to have been. And he proceeds to explain a few of the verbal difficulties in the description of the plan of that writer, to which I shall presently call the reader's attention.

The charter which Reyner quotes is dated A.D. 852. This he altered to 878, but incorrectly. The date of the foundation, as furnished by some of the best of the ancient authorities, is A.D. 888.<sup>13</sup>

The house was founded for monks of the Order of St. Benedict, and was dedicated to our Blessed Saviour, St. Peter, St. Paul, and St. Athelwine. Bishop Tanner [*Turner MS.*] is in error when he says that "no mention is made in the surrender, nor anywhere but in Malmesbury, of their patron St. Egelwine." Nor have the last editors of the *Monasticon* helped us to the entire truth when they add that "in a recognition, however, of the middle of the fifteenth century this monastery is spoken of as dedicated to St. Saviour, St. Peter, St. Paul, and St. Athelwine."

The fact is, as we shall see as we proceed, that in a number of documents of the thirteenth and two following centuries, the name of St. Athelwine is given as that of one of the saints to whom the house was dedicated.

The original structure appears to have been worthy alike of the royal founder and of the sacred use for which it was erected. Simeon of Durham speaks of it in one place as "*Monasterium præpulchrum*," and in another as "*monasterium nobile*."<sup>14</sup>

(12). Reyner de Antiq. Benedictor. in Angl., ii, sec. 6, pp. 132, 133, 134.

(13). MS. Cott. Nero D. ii, ff. 80 *al.* 86. MS. Harl. 261, ff. 104*b al.* 107*b.*

(14). Scriptores X, Twisden, cols. 132, 150.

Ethelred, abbot of Rievaulx, calls it “nobilissimum,”<sup>15</sup> and Bromton, “famosum.”<sup>16</sup> In the face of these authorities, and especially of one whom I am about to cite, it is scarcely warrantable in Sir John Spelman to assert that “it was a work greater in the devotion from whence it proceeded than in the magnificence of the structure.”<sup>17</sup> It was in fact an example of a style hitherto unknown in England. The founder employed skilful workmen from abroad, and his countrymen saw with surprise and delight the edifices that resulted from their labours. The house of Athelney, we may be well assured, was no exception to the general rule. Besides the authorities quoted above, we have the account of one who, it would seem, had himself visited the place and recorded his impressions of the interesting scene. I have already stated that a strong fortress had been erected soon after Alfred’s arrival. This was on the western bank of the Tone, and communicated with a bridge over the river. The monastery must have been closely contiguous to, if not on the site of, the fortress. It was small, but of ornamental character, and the style of its church was sufficiently singular to induce the monk of Malmesbury, who wrote in the twelfth century, to enter somewhat minutely into its peculiarities. He says that the building had to be accommodated to the limited space that was at command, and was consequently but of moderate size. The mode of construction, however, was new. Four piers were sunk in the ground, springing from which were four circular arches which supported the edifice. Each of these four sides terminated in an apsidal chancel or chapel.<sup>18</sup> It would seem that Alfred’s builders derived the idea of their work from the late Roman buildings to which they were accustomed, and it was assuredly an approach to the style which the Norman conquerors afterwards made common, and which in our architectural nomenclature is

(15). Twisden, col. 355.

(16). *Ibid.*, col. 812.

(17). *Life of Alfred*, ed. Hearne, p. 165.

(18). *Will. Malmesbury*, ed. Savile, p. 255.



called after their name. We are informed by the authorities already referred to that Alfred endowed his monastery with possessions of considerable value. The register of the abbey sets forth that he gave to his foundation "the whole isle of Athelney, exempt from taxes and other burdens, with common pasture, and free ingress and egress in Stathmoor, Saltmoor, Haymore and Currymoor, and all other moors within his manor of North Curry.<sup>19</sup> In addition to this, as we gather from another charter of which but a few late transcripts have been preserved, he gave ten cassates of land in Sudtun (Sutton) with their appurtenances, all meadows, pastures, rivulets, and other appurtenances. As this charter is not without interest, as an example of an instrument of this early period, a literal translation will be acceptable:—

"Whilst our Lord Jesus Christ reigneth for ever, all the kingdoms of this wavering life and the rulers of the kingdoms from the beginning of this worthless age fail and quickly pass away. Therefore to fugitive and mortal things eternal joys are to be preferred. On which account, I, Alfred, by the divine mercy ordaining, King of the West Saxons, for the relief of my soul and the forgiveness of my sins, have given with a willing mind a certain small piece of ground of ten cassates in extent, in a place called Sudtun, by the isle of nobles, which in the English tongue is usually called Æthlingaig, for the supply of their monastic life, to the monks there under the exercise of their rule, devoutly serving Almighty God; and this liberty I have with devout mind given to the aforesaid monastery with meadows, pastures, rivulets, and all things rightly thereunto appertaining to continue for ever free from all royal tribute and compulsory works and penal causes, save and except military service against an invader, and the erection and repair of forts and bridges. Whosoever shall be willing to increase this gift, on him may God increase His blessings in the land of the living. But if any (which God

(19). Regist. Abb. Atheln., *Collinson* i, 86.



forbid), puffed up with pride and enticed by the ability of acting tyrannically, shall endeavour to infringe this and to make it of none effect, let him know that he is accursed from all the Church of Christian men, and that he shall have to tender an account in the day of judgment before Christ and His angels, unless he shall before have made amends. The aforesaid land, even the gift of this ground, is enclosed by these boundaries, Arnstore and Lceroc, etc.

This bill of the present gift is written in the 852nd year from the Incarnation of Christ, in the fourth indiction, these witnesses agreeing whose names appear."<sup>20</sup> Then follow the names of Alfred, Ealhfeud, Eandulf, Cuthred, Vulfric, Elfestan, Epeheah, Mired, Mansel, Vulfric and Anulf. I fear that the present form of this charter, especially as regards the names of places and persons, is sadly full of errors. The original has long been lost, and, as I have already stated, the only copies of it that we possess are transcripts written many centuries later, and apparently the work of scribes who had a very imperfect knowledge of the document on which they were employed. Its genuineness may be suspected, as the indiction is erroneous, although Mr. Hardy has well shown that such a mistake is not absolutely conclusive against the claims of the instrument in which it occurs.

For the early history of the community at Athelney we have a most trustworthy authority in Asser, the king's chaplain and Bishop of Sherborne. He had himself visited the place, and his account is singularly complete and interesting. The first head of the new institution was a celebrated German monk, whom Alfred had invited to his kingdom in order to conduct the discipline and studies of the sacred schools which he intended to establish. This was John, surnamed Scotus, the old Saxon, and it is probable that he came from the monastery of Corbey. All the authorities unite in attributing to this eminent person the highest possible qualities. Alfred himself

(20). MS. Lansd. 447, ff. 58, 58b. Cod. Dipl. cccix, vol. ii, pp. 105, 106.

makes honourable mention of him as his mass-priest in the right noble preface to his translation of Gregory's "Pastoral." Asser calls him "*acerrimi ingenii virum*," and says that he was most learned in all kinds of literature and science. Ingulphus praises him as "*acerrimi ingenii philosophum*." Indeed, it would appear that nothing less than the presence of the highest attainments both moral and intellectual was sufficient for the requirement. It should be remembered that the institution of monachism was at that time in little favour with the great body of the people. With their successes over the Danes, wealth had produced luxury, and luxury was instinctively opposed to the religion of the cloister. Even before the time of Alfred the love of monastic institutions had begun to wax cold. The good king, however, had long felt that it was in such establishments that religion and learning could be most successfully encouraged, and in this opinion he was warmly supported by the man whom he placed over his new monastery at Athelney. With a small body of foreign monks, mostly Franks, he settled down to his life of devoted service in the midst of a wilderness, at first resorted to only for the protection which its seclusion could impart, and to which, for long afterwards, no one would have been attracted by any motive save those of separation from the world, and of devotion to a religious and literary life.

The number of foreign ecclesiastics, both priests and deacons, who had been placed under Abbot John, was not sufficient for his ardent wishes, and before long he had assembled a large body of monks, principally from Germany. Together with them were a number of "*infantes*," youths of tender age, as Reyner explains the word, also foreigners, who were destined afterwards for the monastic habit; and among them Asser tells us that he saw a child of pagan race—a Dane, as Reyner suggests—who was by no means inferior to his companions.

For some time all went well. A cloud, however, was coming over the scene, and that from a quarter from which no danger was apprehended. It was nothing less than a most

atrocious attempt on the life of the good abbot himself on the part of two of his monks. Asser gives us the particulars, related in considerable detail from the testimony of witnesses, and it is difficult to imagine a more shameless endeavour to neutralize the good work which had been so auspiciously begun. I would willingly, with the historian, agree to bury this evil deed in oblivion, did not truth insist on its mention, and did I not remember, with him, that good and evil, like wheat and tares, are permitted to grow together, the former for praise and sequence, the latter for blame and distant avoidance.

It appears that two of the monks, out of envy towards their superior, had seriously conspired with as many of the younger servants to murder him. The plan adopted was worthy of its framers. It was the abbot's custom to spend a part of the night in prayer before the altar, and the assassins determined to enlist the sacred scene and occasion in their unhallowed project. While he was upon his knees they designed that those already hidden in the church should fall on him and murder him, and then drag his lifeless body to the door of a house of evil repute, as though he had met his death in visiting that place; thus, as Asser remarks, "adding crime to crime, as it is said 'the last error shall be worse than the first.'"

A good providence defeated this shameless scheme. The armed assassins were shut into the church and silently waited for their unconscious victim, who came as usual to his midnight prayers. As he was kneeling before the altar the miscreants rushed out upon him and gave him some severe wounds. But they had slightly mistaken the man with whom they had to deal. Abbot John was not only a learned and saintly scholar, but no contemptible specimen of the "muscular christianity" of his age. If he had not been a good priest, he would have been an excellent soldier. He was well skilled in the noble art defensive, and could take his own part when there was fit occasion. So, the moment he heard the

sound of his enemies, before he got sight of them, he rose quickly from his knees and prepared to defend himself. At the same time he called out loudly for assistance, and declared that his assassins were demons rather than men, for that such an attempt was beyond the scope of human turpitude. His cries awoke the monks, who, though greatly alarmed, and especially at the attribution of the attack to supernatural agency, rushed to the church, not, however, before the enemy had made a precipitate retreat to the neighbouring marshes, where pursuit was impossible. The abbot was found half dead, and was carried home amid the lamentations of his brethren, including those, it is added, who were the authors of the plot. The contrivers and their agents, however, were soon discovered, and met the punishment that their crime deserved.

We must now pass to the year 1009. Abbot Ælfric, a name which has not hitherto found a place in the list of superiors, then governed the monastery, and King Æthelred II gave to him and his holy brethren a certain small piece of land, by estimation three perches in extent, situated at Hamme. The gift was as usual, subject to the "*trinoda necessitas*," which, as we have noticed in the case of the charter of Alfred, comprised the service of aiding the king against an invader, the maintenance of fortifications, and the building and repair of bridges. The house at this time was evidently small, as the king uses in his charter the diminutive form "*monasterium*," and it is spoken of as dedicated to St. Peter without the addition of any other patron. Ælfheah, Archbishop of Canterbury, and Wulfstan, Archbishop of York, are among the witnesses to this instrument.<sup>21</sup>

Collinson says that Alfwald occurs as abbot in the same year as the date of this gift, and that Simon succeeded him. It appears that he obtained his information from the register

(21). Cod. Dipl., n. mcccvi, vol. vi, pp. 163, 164. Middle Hill MS., n. 4810, f. 91.

of the abbey, or from some transcript of that MS. The same writer gives us the name of Athelward as abbot in the year 1016.<sup>22</sup>

It may be presumed that Æthelwin succeeded, and that under his government the community was well known and much revered, for I find that King Cnut, who according to most writers began his reign in 1017, gave them for their prayers in behalf of his soul, land to the extent of two mansæ, or one perch, in a place commonly called Seofenempton. The brotherhood is honourably mentioned in his charter as “famossissima familia,” and the house as a holy and most celebrated place—“in illo sancto et celeberrimo loco qui Æthelinganye nuncupatur.” Æthelwold, Archbishop of Canterbury, was present and attested this donation.<sup>23</sup>

The next notice which we possess is a very valuable one, and combined with a particularity of detail which places its object in the clearest light. It is the official return of the possessions of the abbey, contained in the Exchequer and Exon. Domesday. Unfortunately the name of the then abbot is not given, but the possessions of the house are enumerated in a manner that leaves little to be desired.

At the period of the compilation of this invaluable record, which was between the years 1083-1086, the property belonging to the abbey, in the county of Somerset, consisted of the following. I have taken the Exchequer record for the particulars of the lands, and have added the enumeration of the live stock from the Exon. Domesday.

1. *Atiltone* (Ilton).—In the time of King Edward it paid geld for eight hides. The arable land is reckoned at twelve carucates. In the demesne are four hides and there three carucates, ten villeins, six bordarii, with four ploughs, four servi, two horses, six beasts, ten pigs, forty sheep, a mill, the rent of which

(22). History of Somerset, vol. i, p. 87.

(23). Cod. Diplom. mcccxxiv, vol. vi, pp. 187, 188, 189. Midd. Hill MS., n. 4810, f. 75.



was 7s. 6d. ; meadow, forty acres ; pasture, thirty acres ; wood, a mile in length and in breadth ; annual value, one hundred shillings. Of these eight hides the Earl of Moretaine holds two, of which the arable land is four carucates, and the annual value thirty shillings. These in the time of King Edward the Confessor were held by the Abbey.

2. *Sutune* (Long Sutton).—In the time of the Confessor it paid geld for ten hides. Arable land sixteen carucates ; in the demesne, four hides, and there two carucates, four servi, eight villeins, six bordarii, with six ploughs ; six beasts, fifteen pigs, one hundred and two sheep ; meadow, forty acres ; pasture, one hundred acres ; annual value to the abbey, £8. Roger Brito is stated to hold half a hide of the land, with one plough, and Roger de Corcel two hides, against the abbot's will. Two thanes held them of the Church in King Edward's time. The arable land is two carucates ; meadow, six acres ; value, fifty shillings.

3. *Seovenamentone* (Seavington St. Mary).—It paid geld for two hides in the time of the Confessor : the arable land amounted to two carucates. There are in the demesne one hide, and there one carucate, seven villeins, three bordarii, and two servi ; one horse, nine pigs, forty sheep, meadow, six acres ; annual value, thirty shillings.

4. *Hame* (in Bridgwater).—In the time of the Confessor it gelded for one hide. Arable land, four carucates ; in the demesne, half a hide, and there one carucate, four servi, one villein, seven bordarii with one carucate, two beasts ; meadow, fifteen acres ; small wood, three acres ; annual value, thirty shillings.

5. *Lege* (East-Lyng).—It consisted of one hide, which paid no geld in the time of the Confessor. In the demesne half a hide, and there two carucates, six servi, three villeins, four bordarii, with two ploughs ; one horse, two beasts, ten pigs, and thirty sheep ; meadow, twelve acres ; wood, fifty acres ; annual value, forty shillings.

It is further stated that Earl Moriton holds two hides belonging to the abbey, in Aisselle, that Roger de Corcelle holds two hides of the manor of Sutone, and that Ralf de Limesi holds, as it would seem, illegally, one hide, which belonged to the abbey in Bosintone. These lands, it is added, could not be separated from the church.<sup>24</sup>

In Dorsetshire the Abbey possessed the manor of Candel. In the time of King Edward it paid geld for four hides, one virgate and a half. At the period of the survey the arable land is stated as four carucates, whereof in the demesne were four hides, and there one carucate, two villeins, fourteen bordarii, with two ploughs, meadow, fourteen acres; wood, three furlongs in length and two in breadth. Of this land Aluredus Pincerna is said to hold the one remaining virgate and a half. The value of the whole was 67*s.* 6*d.*, whereof the abbot's portion was 60*s.*<sup>25</sup> The record supplies us with the particulars connected with the acquisition of the just mentioned manor of Candle, or Purse Candel, in the hundred of Sherburn, and county of Dorset. It appears that in the time of the Confessor the Abbey had the manor of Bisobestone, or Biscopestone, which then paid geld for nine hides. The Earl of Moretaine gave the monks in exchange for this manor that of Candel, and on the former erected his castle of Montagut, or Montagud. In the account of this transaction, supplied by the Exon Domesday, the abbey is called Aliennia: the Exchequer Domesday reads, as usual, Adelingi.<sup>26</sup>

It will be seen from the preceding enumeration that in the eleventh century the possessions of the abbey amounted to twenty-six hides, one virgate and a half. The arable land is estimated at thirty-six carucates. The former of these denominations was common amongst Saxons, the latter was of Norman origin. The hide has been described as a measure

(24). Domesday i, p. 91. Exon. Domesday, pp. 175, 176, 408, 479, 488.

(25). Domesday i, f. 786. Exon. Domesday, p. 38.

(26). Exon. Domesday, pp. 260, 261. Domesday i, f. 93.

of land, "sufficient to the cultivation of one plough"—"*hida Angliæ vocatur terra unius aratri culture sufficiens.*" Its exact quantity was never determined, but, as Selden remarks, was at all times uncertain. The carucate was the Norman equivalent to which the Saxon measure was reduced at the formation of the Conqueror's Survey. It was as much arable as could be cultivated every year with one plough and the beasts belonging to it, and has been variously estimated from sixty to one hundred and fifty acres.<sup>27</sup> The annual value as then calculated amounted to the sum of £21 7s. 6d. For the earlier half of the twelfth century we have an interesting picture of the place and the community from the graphic pen of the Malmesbury monk. The historian himself was a native of Somersetshire, and, from the minuteness with which he describes the house and its inmates, we may be tolerably sure that he had visited the one and was personally intimate with the other. He says that *Adelinga* is not an island of the sea, but is so inaccessible, from marshes and morasses, that a boat is necessary for approaching it. He adds that there is on the island a large grove of alders, abounding with stags and fallow deer, and many other animals of the same kind. The solid ground, he says, was barely two acres in extent and on it was the monastery constructed. His account of the church I have already given. He describes the brethren as few in number and poor, but as consoled and compensated for their poverty by their love of that quiet and solitude which they so highly valued, and could here so perfectly and uninterruptedly enjoy. Their time was spent in sacred duties, in reciting the praises of their patron St. Egelwine, and in appreciation of his holy life. That saint was brother of the West-Saxon king, Kenewalh, but was not more renowned for noble birth than for grandeur of character and prompt ad-

(27). The meadow land is given as one hundred and thirteen acres, the pasture as one hundred and thirty acres, besides the woodland, which, as the reader will have remarked, was of considerable extent: the property could hardly have been of less extent than four thousand acres.

vocacy of all who sought his aid.<sup>28</sup> Benedict was abbat of Athelney at the period of which this is a description. There is a very curious and interesting document preserved in the Beauchamp cartulary, which he and his convent made in favour of Robert de Beauchamp,—so curious as to deserve a literal translation.

“The charter between Master Robert de Beauchamp and the Abbat and Convent of Athelingaye.

“Benedict by the grace of God Abbat of Athelingnye and also the convent of the same church to all men both their friends and neighbours, French and English, as well present as future, health. Be it known unto all those who now are and unto those who are about to come, that we with common assent have granted to Robert de Beauchamp and his heirs in fee and heirship all that land which is called Frogenemera, so that nevertheless the said Robert shall give every year one mark of silver to us and our church, and shall acquit that land for half a hide in the common county assizes. Also to the same Robert, and his ancestors and his heirs, we grant the benefit and fraternity of our church in our common chapter. This grant the aforesaid Robert has strengthened by joining right hands with the Abbat, and to the aforesaid church he has promised that he will in all things be faithfully attentive, and that he will go to the pleas and business of our church whenever he shall be called; as the friend and faithful brother of the same. And for this grant the aforesaid Robert de Beauchamp has given to Abbat Benedict of his recognizances half a marc of silver, and to the convent he has given two sextarii of honey. Witnesses, Robert, Bp. of Bath, and Hugh de Turnai, archdeacon, and Robert, archdeacon, and Ivo Dean of Wells, and Reginald Chanter, and Richard de Soc, writer, and Ralph, Prior of Athelney, and Arnold, monk, and Richard de

(28). Will. Malmesbury de gest. Pont. Angl., ed. Savile, p. 255.

Raddona, and Richard de Montacute, and Simon de Cant, William Fitzodbert and Richard his son, and Roger Fitzovert and Robert his son, Ralph, clerk of Cinnoc, Edward de Soc, and Richard —, Geoffrey clerk of —, John Clerk, Simon Clerk, Niger, brother of the Abbat, Roger de Westle, John de Stubbs (?), and many others. Farewell.”<sup>29</sup>

We have here, it would appear, an example of what in after-times was still more common, the endeavour to retain the good offices and friendly aid of a powerful layman of the neighbourhood on those many occasions when a body of ecclesiastics would otherwise be obliged to resort to legal measures for the protection of their rights and possessions, and not always with that amount of success which the mere justice of their claims would deserve. The same Abbat Benedict is one of a number of witnesses who attested the institution of Hywis, or Huish, as a perpetual prebend in the church of St. Andrew of Wells. Robert was at this time Bishop of Bath, and the instrument was dated the 4th of November, 1159.<sup>30</sup> A more particular account of the transaction will be found in my History of Taunton Priory, the Prior of which was also a witness on this occasion.

It may be presumed that Benedict was succeeded by Abbat Roger. His name does not occur in any list previously given, but I find him as a witness to a charter of James de Montsorell, setting forth the gift of the church of Withlacin-ton (Whitelakington) to the church of St. Andrew of Wells, and to Reginald Bishop of Bath.<sup>31</sup> Reginald governed the see from the year 1174-1192, to a period between which dates our abbat is to be assigned.

Another Benedict succeeded in or before the year 1198. For about that time Savaricus, Bishop of Bath and Glaston-

(29). Beauchamp Cartulary, pp. 8, 9.

(30). MS. Harl. 6968, pp. 24, 25. Archer from Reg. Will., vol. i, f. 26.

(31). MS. Harl. 6968, p. 43.



bury, made a proposal to the abbats of Athelney and Ciren-  
cester that they should agree to the elevation of their churches,  
the former of Sutton and the latter of Meleburne into prebends  
of the cathedral church of Wells. This was done for the sake  
of augmenting the number of the canons, as well as for the  
honour and benefit of the churches so selected.<sup>32</sup> It appears  
that the Abbat of Athelney complied with this proposal. For  
in another document, Savaricus, after making honourable  
mention of the religion and honesty which distinguished the  
brotherhood of Adheligne, permits, with the consent of Alex-  
ander the dean and the chapter of Wells, the church of Sutton  
to be made a perpetual prebend in the church of Wells, and  
that his beloved son, the Abbat Benedict, and all his successors,  
should be perpetual prebendaries thereof, and assigns a stall in  
the choir and a place in the chapter next the sub-dean. He  
also releases the abbat and his successors from all personal  
residence at Wells, but stipulates that they shall find a substi-  
tute to perform the religious services of their office, and shall  
pay him a pension of four mares a year.<sup>33</sup>

The same Abbat Benedict was a witness to a confirmation of  
Savaricus to the Abbey of Muchelney of the tithes of the  
church of Somerton, reserving to the vicars their lawful dues.  
John, Prior of Taunton, was also among the witnesses to this  
instrument.<sup>34</sup> About this time Sir Richard de Locumbe gave  
to the abbat and convent a pension of 40s. a year from the  
rectory of Selworth, of which church he was patron. The  
grant was confirmed by Savaricus, and appears to have been  
paid with short intervals for several centuries.<sup>35</sup>

In or about the year 1221, either the same or another Abbat  
Benedict gave to Jocelin, Bishop of Bath, and his successors,  
the advowson of the church of Ilton, with all its appurten-

(32). MS. Harl. 6968, pp. 80, 81.

(33). MS. Harl. 6968, pp. 60, 61. Et post, ff. 123, 123b. Angl. Sacr., vol. i, 563.

(34). MS. Harl. 6968, cart. pp. 5, 6.

(35). MS. Harl. 6967, f. 15b.

ances, to be ordered and disposed as their other churches and and prebends. Richard, Abbat of Muchelney, with others, attested this charter.<sup>36</sup> It can scarcely be imagined that Abbat Benedict, the friend of Bishop Savaricus, who, as we have already observed, must have succeeded not later than the year 1198, survived to 1225, at which date also his name occurs.<sup>37</sup> It would seem that a third superior of the same name is to be added to our list of these dignitaries. In the absence of positive authority, however, this is a point which we must be content to leave undecided.

Athelney had a new abbot in 1232 at the latest, for in that year Roger, Abbat of Athelney, and his convent gave to Bishop Jocelin all the tithes in Putteneye and Wern in the parish of Hiwis. The bishop had given these tithes at the dedication of the church of Hiwis for the endowment of that church, and the abbat and convent now ratified the gift.<sup>38</sup> This instrument was dated the festival of St. Maurice and his companions, in the twenty-sixth year of Jocelin's episcopate, which is coincident with the 22nd September, 1232.

Robert succeeded, and, it would appear, almost immediately after the transaction just related. He occurs, it is said, in 1232, 1249, 1260, and 1263.<sup>39</sup> In 1260 there was a difference between him and his convent and John, then chancellor of Wells and prebendary of Ilton, about a house situated in their court at Herdecote, and used for the storing of their tithes collected therefrom. The matter was amicably settled on these conditions, viz., that the dean, chancellor, and chapter should give up all right and possessions in the aforesaid, and that the aforesaid abbat and convent should give in pure and perpetual alms to the church of Ilton; the chancellor and his successors in the said prebend, a piece of land lying to the

(36). MS. Harl. 6968, p. 42.

(37). *Collinson*, vol. i, p. 87.

(38). MS. Harl. 6968, pp. 44, 45. Reg. Well., vol. i, f. 40.

(39). *Collinson*, vol. i, p. 87.

north of Herdecote, of the size of half-an-acre, and extending from the king's highway from Herdecote towards Ilford Bridge, for the building of a grange and houses for storing their tithes. The prebendary and his companions were to surround the land with a competent enclosure, and were not to erect thereon any cottage or mansion, the said grange and houses excepted, unless with the licence of the abbat and convent. This arrangement was dated in the chapter house at Wells the 1st June, 1260.<sup>40</sup>

The next notice which occurs is one which will fitly introduce many others of a somewhat similar character. It will be recollected that the abbey was of royal foundation and that the King was accordingly its patron. This fact has been of great use to me in determining the exact dates at which many of the abbats began their conventual reign; inasmuch as the licence to the convent to elect a successor on the decease of an abbat, the royal assent and the restitution of the temporalities are entered upon the Patent Rolls. I have by this means recovered a number of dates which have not previously been determined.

During a vacancy the temporalities were in the King's hands, and we know that in the case of some of the wealthier establishments of which our ancient monarchs were the patrons, the term of such intervals was oftentimes unnecessarily lengthened, in order that their revenues might enrich an impoverished treasury. Even the Abbey of Athelney, though boasting of no great wealth, was subjected to this infliction. In the Patent Roll, of the fifty-second year of Henry III, it is set forth that the Abbat of Athelney has paid by the King's writ to Alan, son of our John de Britann, by the hand of Roger de Radeflod, on the Monday next after the festival of St. Leonard, in the fifty-second year of the present reign, which is coeval with the 7th November, 1267, the sum of ten

(40). MS. Harl. 6968, pp. 42, 43.

pounds by which the prior and convent have compounded with us for the custody of their house in the last vacancy of the same, to be held in part payment of a larger sum in which the King is bound to the said John, and of which ten pounds the abbot and convent are entirely quit. The document is in fact a receipt for the money, and is dated—witness, the King at Winchester—the 7th of November, 1267,<sup>41</sup> the same day as the money was paid, though expressed in the roll in a different form. Twenty days afterwards, the letters patent were issued for the restitution of the temporalities to the abbat elected at the close of the just mentioned vacancy. Richard de Derham, a monk of the house, had been elected by his brethren and had received the royal assent, and these letters restored to him the temporalities of his abbey, and enjoined all who owed him service to pay the same to him as their abbat and lord. The letters are dated at Clarendon, the 27th of November, 1267.<sup>42</sup>

The abbey was at this time in special favour. A few days only elapsed before the king granted to the prior and convent of Athelingenye, that they and their successors for ever should have a market every week on Monday in their manor of Lenge, and a fair every year to last three days, to wit, the eve, day, and morrow of St. James the Apostle, in their manor of Sutton, with the usual variation in favour of any neighbouring markets and fairs which might be thereby damaged. The witnesses are Robert Walerand, Robert Aguilon, Walter de Overton, Master John de Chishull, John de la Lynd, Stephen Eddeworth, and others. The charter is dated at Clarendon, the 10th of December.<sup>43</sup>

It is probable that at this time the King granted the privilege of which we have a confirmation at the end of the following reign. It was that all the horses and men of the abbat and

(41). Pat. Rolls, 52 Hen. III, m. 37.

(42). Pat. Rolls, 52 Hen. III, m. 34.

(43). Cart., 52 Hen. III, m. 11.

monks of Athelyngnea, which they could swear to belong to them, should be quit of all toll, passage, pontage, and customs whatsoever through all his land, and forbidding anyone to molest or disturb them in the enjoyment of this right under a penalty of ten pounds.<sup>44</sup>

In or about the year 1270, the Abbot of Alnigenye is returned as holding in the hundred of Cintrell, Athelney, and all his other lands—"per orationes pro domino Rege."<sup>45</sup>

We must now pass to the early year of the next reign. King Edward I granted to the Dean and Chapter of Wells licence to grant one hundred acres of moor with their appurtenances in North Cory to the abbat and convent of Athelingney and their successors for ever, for common of pasture which the same abbat and convent have in eight hundred acres of moor of the aforesaid dean and chapter in the same vill with the usual reservation of the lord's services. The grant is dated the 12th July, 1276.<sup>46</sup>

Abbat Richard de Derham departed this life in the beginning of the year 1280. Andrew de Sacro Fonte, monk of Athelney, was elected his successor. The royal assent to the election was dated at Dunameneye the 14th March,<sup>47</sup> and the restitution of the temporalities at Bristoll the 19th of April, 1280.<sup>48</sup>

At the assizes held at Somerton just afterwards on the morrow of the festival of the Ascension, 1280, it was pleaded that the Abbat of Alingneye was bound to repair the bridge of Doulesford, which was in a dangerous condition. The abbat affirmed that neither he nor his predecessors had repaired that bridge nor was it his business so to do.<sup>49</sup>

(44). See *post* 33 Edw. I.

(45). Test. de Nevill, p. 163.

(46). MS. Harl. 6968, cart., p. 64.

[This paragraph and also the marginal note is scored through with ink in the MS., but see Wells Cathedral MSS., f. 216.]

(47). Pat. Rolls, 8 Edw. I, m. 21.

(48). Pat. Rolls, 8 Edw. I, m. 20.

(49). Plac. de Jur. and Ass. Somers., 8 Edw. I, rot. 13, dors 5/15—2.8.



At the same assizes at Somerton, the abbat sued against Richard Fromund the moiety of one virgate of land with its appurtenances in Oggesole as the right of his church of Adelingley. Richard appears to have pleaded that one Isabella de Montacute had given the land with its appurtenances to a certain Margery, obliging her and her heirs to the warranty, and he exhibited a charter of the said Isabella in confirmation of his assertion. He further pleaded that the said Richard did homage for the aforesaid land to Simon de Montacute. Simon being summoned, said that he was not held to warranty by the aforesaid charter, because the land sued against the aforesaid Richard is not contained in the charter aforesaid, and further that the tenements are of the fee of Erle and not of the fee of Montacute. The jury gave their verdict for the abbat, adjudging to him the recovery of his seisin against the aforesaid Richard.<sup>50</sup>

In the same year Henry de Lorti was summoned to give account by what warrant he held twenty acres of pasture called Rochemore. Henry pleaded that the pasture aforesaid belonged to his manor of Knolle, which manor he held of the Abbat of Alingeley. It was pleaded on the other side, that the pasture belonged to the manor of Somerton, and not to the manor of Knolle.<sup>51</sup>

We have already seen that the Abbat of Athelney was a prebendary of Wells so early as the time of Bishop Savaricus, and we have now to notice him in the performance of one of his privileges. On the Saturday next after the Festival of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, the 16th of September, 1284, died Edward de la Cnoll, dean of Wells. After licence was obtained from the bishop to elect a successor, the canons were cited for that purpose, and among them the abbats of Athelney and Muchelney.<sup>52</sup>

(50). Plac. de Jur. and Ass. Somers., 8 Edw. I, rot. 31, M 5/13—4.4., M 5/14—1.5.

(51). Plac. de quo Warr. Somers., 8 Edw. I, rot. 57. Rep. Plac., p. 145.

(52). MS. Harl. 6968, pp. 33, 34.

In Easter term 1289, in the King's court at Westminster, before Thomas de Weylaund, John de Lovecot, William de Burnton, Roger de Leycestre, and Elias de Bekyngham, justices, and others, a final concord was made between Andrew, Abbat of the church of St. Alwyne of Athelingeneye and Simon de Montacute, regarding a hundred and fifty acres of land with their appurtenances in Oggesole. Simon made an acknowledgment that the aforesaid land with its appurtenances was the right of the abbat and his church, and renounced all claim on the part of himself and his heirs for ever.<sup>53</sup> The reader will perceive that this is another instance of the dedication of the abbey to S. Athelwine. Others will present themselves in the following century.

In the year 1290 was the famous valuation of Pope Nicholas IV, according to which all the ecclesiastical property of the kingdom was rated down to the period of the *Valor*. The following is a condensed account of the possessions, both spiritual and temporal, of the abbey at that period.<sup>54</sup>

SARUM. SP.

	Taxatio.	Decima.
Porcio Abbis de Athelyngine in Ecclia } de Caundel Purs ... .. }	1 0 0	0 2 0

SARUM. TEMP.

Caundel Purs. Abbas de Athelingnie	5 13 0	0 11 3 $\frac{3}{4}$
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BATH AND WELLES SP'.

Pensio Abbis de Atheleneye in ecclia } de Baggedripe ... .. }	2 0 0	
Pensio Abbis de Athelneye in ecclia } de Syleworth (Selworthy) ... }	2 0 0	

BATH AND WELLES TEMP'.

Sottone } Abbis }	Abbas de Athelneye	... 23 0 0
Herdecote, Abbas de Atheln'	...	7 6 8
Northcoursy, Abbas de Atheln'	...	1 6 8

(53). *Fin. Somers.*, 17 Edw. I, n. 116.

(54). *Tax. Eccl. P. Nich.*, pp. 178, 185, 198, 204-5.

		Taxatio.
Cumberflory } apud Hyda }	Abbas de Atheln' ...	0 10 0
Hamme, Abbas de Atheln' pitanc' ...		6 10 0
Lenge, Abbas de Atheln' ...	...	9 0 0
Hoggesole and } Clavelesheye. }	Abbas de Atheln' ...	0 7 0
Bosyngton, Abbas de Atheln' ...		1 11 0
[Sp. 5 0 0 Temp. 55 4 4]		

In the 25th year of King Edward I, 1297, the Abbat of Athelingnye was returned as possessor of lands and rent of the value of £20 per annum, and as such was summoned to perform military service in parts beyond sea. The muster was at London on the Sunday next after the octave of St. John the Baptist, the 7th July, 1297. The writ of summons was dated, witness the king, at Portesmouth the 24th May, 1297.<sup>55</sup>

A perambulation of the forest of Neracchist was made on the 19th of March, 26 Edward I, 1298. It is there stated that the Abbat of Athelnye holds the hamlet of Stoforde which pertains to the manor of Yleton. In a perambulation of the forest of North Petherton made on the 25th of May in the same year, the Abbat of Athelyngnye is said to hold the manor of Westleng and Estleng, with woods, moors, marshes, and appurtenances.<sup>56</sup>

The year 1300 brought another abbat to Athelney. The choice then fell on Osmund de Sow, a monk of the house. Collinson is in error where he gives the year 1297 as that of this abbat's succession. I have recovered from the Patent Roll the date of the entire transaction. Brother Osmundus de Sow and Brother Thomas de Newbury were deputed to inform the king of the death of their abbat. They received from him his licence to elect a successor, dated at Totenham the 5th of April, 1300.<sup>57</sup> The former of the two messengers

(55). *Parl. Writs*, I, p. 292.

(56). *Hist. Ad. de Domerham*, ed. Hearne, I, pp. 189, 199.

(57). *Pat. Rolls*, 28 Edw. I, m. 21.

was elected to the vacant dignity and received the royal assent dated Neuport Paynel, the 19th of the same month,<sup>58</sup> and the temporalities were restored to him by virtue of an instrument dated at Hildeburghworth, the 13th of the following May.<sup>59</sup>

In the month afterwards, a writ dated at Wetherby, the 14th of June, was addressed to all persons possessed of £40 or upwards of land or rent, to perform military service against the Scots. The Abbat of Athelingnye was accordingly summoned among the other Somerset landholders. The muster was at Carlisle on the next ensuing festival of St. John the Baptist, the 24th of June, 1300.<sup>60</sup>

This must have been a serious drain on the revenues of a place never too well supplied with means of expenditure. It does not, therefore, much surprise us to find the abbat and convent endeavouring, and we would hope effectually, to rid themselves of another and heavy grievance. The King had granted a corrody in the abbey to one of his old servants, which included all necessities in food and clothing. On the arrival of Gilbert de Ragun, in whose favour this had been done, and who was himself the bearer of the objectionable letters, the abbat and convent returned a submissive answer to their sovereign, representing to him that at that very time they had at his majesty's appointment two other pensionaries of a similar kind, John de Hanele, clerk, who received an annual payment of forty shillings, and Nicholas Freyn, who was found in food and clothing for life. And they therefore must humbly solicit his royal mercy and forbearance, entreating him for the sake of charity to spare them, for the present, this additional burden, adding that the said Gilbert could, if he would, attest the truth of their declaration. The letter was dated at Athelyngeny the 28th of July, 1304.<sup>61</sup>

(58). Pat. Rolls, 28 Edw. I, m. 17.

(59). Pat. Rolls, 28 Edw. I, m. 16.

(60). Parl. Writs, I, p. 336.

(61). Calendar of Letters, no. 1222.

Abbat Osmund continued to preserve those friendly relations with the Beauchamp family which his great predecessor had happily commenced. In the second year of his conventual reign, and on the day on which the name of that predecessor was held in special memory, he granted a charter which sets forth that he and his convent had "received lord John de Beauchamp, deceased, lady Cecilia sometime wife of the same, lord John son of the same, lady Johanna his wife, and their children, ancestors, and successors, in all benefits, alms, and prayers, which are or shall be in our church of Athelyngenyne for ever." They also granted that the names of the said John, and of Cecilia, John, and Johanna, when they should depart this life, should be written in their martyrology, and that their anniversary should be solemnly celebrated in their church, year by year. That every year also, on the 24th October, the day of the anniversary of the said John, deceased, thirteen poor people should be fed in behalf of his soul and the souls of the aforesaid, their ancestors and successors. For this grant Cecilia, and John her son, remitted and quitted claim for themselves and their heirs, of a certain common of pasture which they had long held in a certain field in their manor of Ylton, lying between Hortemedede and Stapelemedede, as far as was included by a certain ditch. The witnesses of this instrument were Sir Gilbert de Cnovyle, Sir William de Staunton, John Sylveyn, John de Asseylonde, Laurence de Dylnton, Ralph de Stokelynche, Hugh de la Lade, and many others. It was dated at Athelyngenyne, on the day of St. Benedict, abbat, the 21st March, 1302.<sup>62</sup>

To about the same time, as I conjecture, for the document is undated, we may refer the following. It sets forth that John de Beauchamp, lord of Hacche, confirmed to Osmund, Abbat of Athelyngnye, and his successors, all the crop of half-an-acre of land in Froggemere in his manor of Schepton Beauchamp, whether of corn or of oats. In default the abbat

(62). Beauchamp Cart., pp. 9, 10.



and his convent were to enter and distrain on all his land of Froggemere. The witnesses were Sir Symon de Aston, John de la Stane, Laurence de Dylngton, John Sylveyn, Rauf de Stokelynych, and many others.<sup>63</sup>

On the 2nd of February, 1304-5, a writ was addressed to Walter de Gloucester, the King's Eschaetor, "to determine whether leave might be granted to the abbat and convent of Athelyngnye to hold and possess one messuage and fourteen acres of land with their appurtenances in Holeford, in the county of Somerset, which they had received by the gift and feoffament of Thomas de Holeford, against the statute of Mortmain, and without the royal licence." The writ was dated at Walsyngham, the day above named. The verdict of the jury at an inquest held at Somerton, on the 26th April, 1305, was favourable. The messuage and land were stated to be held of John de la Yerde, by the service of one pound and a half of wax, and a rent of threepence on the festival of St. Mary Magdalene; and that further the same John held the property of Geoffrey de Stawell, and he of the Bishop of Winchester, and the bishop of the king in chief.<sup>64</sup> On this followed the Royal Letters Patent, dated at Langele, the 6th May, 1305.<sup>65</sup>

In the same month the monks received, by payment of one hundred shillings, a confirmation of their grant by Henry III, of freedom from toll, passage and pontage, already recorded. Humphry de Bohun, Earl of Hereford and Essex, Edmund de Manley and others, were witnesses to this charter which was dated at Harwe (Harrow), the 14th of May, 1305.<sup>66</sup>

We have now to pass a short interval of five years. Letters Patent were issued to the dean and chapter of Wells, allowing them to give and assign to the abbat and convent of Athel-  
ingney, one hundred acres of moor with their appurtenances

(63). Beauchamp Cart., pp. 10, 11.

(64). Inq. p.m., 33 Edw. I, n. 144.

(65). Pat. Rolls, 33 Edw. I, p. 1, m. 2.

(66). Cart., 33 Edw. I, n. 36.

in North Cury, for common of pasture which the said abbat and convent had in eight hundred acres of moor of the afore-said dean and chapter in the same vill, to which the abbat and convent were to renounce all claim for the future; with the usual reservation of the lord's services. The letters were dated at Westminster, the 12th July, 1310.<sup>67</sup>

In the year 1316, 9 Edward II, the Abbat of Athelingeay was certified, pursuant to writs tested at Clipston, on the 5th of March, as one of the lords of the township of Purscaundel, in the county of Dorset, and as Lord of Suttone Abbats, Ilton, Sevenhampton Abbat's, Hamme, Lenge, etc., in the county of Somerset.<sup>68</sup>

A few months afterwards a writ was issued to the Eschaetor, to determine whether licence should be accorded to Adam de Seler, of Taunton, to retain one messuage and one virgate of land with its appurtenances in Lange Sutton, held for his life of the Abbot of Athelengeneye, and by him of the king in chief, which he had held without the king's licence and in contravention of the statute. The writ was dated at Westminster, the 12th of July, 1316. The Jury was composed of the following: John de Smelton, Reginald Husee, John Gissop, John le Knyght, John Loyes (or Loges), John Bossard, Walter Isaac, Philip Corbyn, Nicholas Bek, Nicholas Mandeware, Roger Mapodre, and Thomas de Speketon, who said that the abbat held the messuage and land of the king *in capite* in pure and perpetual alms, and that the property was worth twenty shillings a year in all issues. This inquest was taken at Somerton, the 16th August, 1316.<sup>69</sup>

We have now to notice a circumstance of peculiar interest. The ancient church, constructed by the royal founder of the abbey, in a style that was hitherto unknown in England, was

(67). Pat. Rolls, 4 Edw. II, p. 1, m. 24. MS. Harl. 6968, Cart., p. 64.

(68). Parl. Writs, pt. ii, pp. 375, 378, 380.

(69). Inq. ad q. d., 10 Edw. II, n. 49.

[The paragraphs beginning "In the same month," down to this date are scored through with pencil in the MS.]

long ere this, we may suppose, in a state that needed improvement. This, too, was the age of church building, and the good abbat and his brethren were not behind their fellows in the general march of progress. They also, at least, renovated their church, which, according to some subsequent evidence, must have been of a very magnificent character. On the 29th of June, the festival of SS. Peter and Paul, 1321, an indulgence of thirty days was granted to all who should contribute to the reparation of the conventual church.<sup>70</sup> It is not certain from this whether the structure was rebuilt in part, though such of course is probable. That the good work attracted the attention of distant benefactors is evident from the fact that Walter de Stapleton, Bishop of Exeter, who was murdered in London, the 15th of October, 1326, left four pounds to the Abbat of Athelney, for repairs of the church and erection of the tower.<sup>71</sup> But from this also it may be inferred that the church was an older structure and that a portion of it at least was permitted to remain.

It was in the performance of this sacred work that the last days of Abbat Osmund were employed. His tenure of office would seem to have been a period of much peace and religious improvement. He was at the head of his house for the long space of twenty-five years.

Brothers William de Beare and Richard de Gotehirst, monks of the House, were deputed to carry the intelligence to the king; and licence of electing a new superior was dated at Langele, the 29th of January, 1324-5.<sup>72</sup> The choice of the convent fell on Robert de Ile, the prior; the king's assent to the election was dated at Westminster, the 13th of February;<sup>73</sup> and the restitution of the temporalities to the lately elected abbat, at the Tower of London, the 16th of March, 1324-5.<sup>74</sup>

(74). *Ibid.*, m. 18.

(70). MS. Harl. 6964, p. 67.

(71). In Archiv. S. Pet., Exon. Eccl.

(72). Pat. Rolls, 18 Edw. II, p. 2, m. 34.

(73). *Ibid.*, m. 32.

On the 25th of the same month he professed obedience.<sup>75</sup>

The abbat was summoned to a council in London, by a writ dated at Dogmersfeld, the 2nd of September, 1332.<sup>76</sup>

In 1336, there was a composition concerning tithes between the rector of Candel Purs and the abbat.<sup>77</sup>

It is stated that in a provincial or general chapter held at Northampton, on the Monday next after the festival of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the 11th of September, 1340, the Abbat of Athelney was cited and appeared by his proctors.<sup>78</sup>

Little, however, seems to have disturbed the serenity of his rule. He died less than a year afterwards, in the summer of the year 1341. John de Stoure, and John Fort, monks of the House, carried, according to custom, the news to the king, and the licence to elect was dated at Haverigny atte Boure, the 2nd of August, 1341.<sup>79</sup>

Richard de Gothurst (the same, I presume, who accompanied Brother William de Beare in the convent's mission to the king on the death of Abbat Osmund in 1325), a monk of the House, was chosen. The royal assent was dated at the Tower of London, the 20th of August,<sup>80</sup> and the order for the restoration of the temporalities at Westminster, the 4th of September.<sup>81</sup>

In 1343, the abbey is mentioned as not having scholars "in studio generali secundum relationem Prioris studentium."<sup>82</sup>

On the 2nd of December, 1348, Thomas le Touke of Buddeclegh, was admitted to the vicarage of Lenge, on the presentation of the abbat and convent of Athelney.<sup>83</sup>

(75). MS. Harl. 6964, p. 93.

(76). MS. Harl. 6965, p. 62.

(77). Reg. Wyvill., vol. ii, pp. 31, 32, 33. *Hutchins's Dorsetshire*, vol. iv, p. 28.

(78). Reyner. Append., p. 105.

(79). Pat. Rolls, 15 Edw. III, p. 2, m. 29.

(80). *Ibid.*, m. 14.

(81). *Ibid.*, m. 12.

(82). Reyner. Append., p. 107.

(83). MS. Harl. 6965, p. 193.

On the 15th of September, 1349, Abbat Richard de Gotherst was called from the scene of his earthly labours. Licence of electing a successor was granted to the prior and convent, dated at Westminster, the 23rd of September, 1349.<sup>84</sup>

The monks elected their prior, John Stoure, whose name also has been lately before us. On his election he commenced his journey to the king, who was then beyond sea, for the purpose of obtaining the royal assent. He died in the way, but under what circumstances we are not informed. Edward was at that time in the midst of his French campaigns, and the newly-elect had to encounter the varied contrasts to his quiet and secluded home which an invaded country would necessarily present. His death must have occurred before the 10th of October, for on that day a licence was granted for a new election, dated at Westminster, and addressed to the sub-prior and convent of Athelnyngnye.<sup>85</sup> The choice now fell on Robert de Hacche, a monk of the house. The royal assent was given to his election, dated at Westminster, the 22nd of October,<sup>86</sup> and the restitution of the temporalities was ordered by an instrument dated at Westminster the 5th of November, 1349.<sup>87</sup>

Among the Additional MSS. in the British Museum, is preserved a very valuable document connected with this election.<sup>88</sup> It is an "Extent" or valuation of the temporalities of the abbey, taken, in accordance with constant usage, on the death of the late abbat. The property consists of Sutton, Lenge, Iltone, and Hurdecote, in the county of Somerset, and of Pourscaundel, in the county of Dorset. The record will give us a complete insight into the exact state and value of the possessions of the abbey in the middle of the fourteenth century.

(84). Pat. Rolls, 23 Edw. III, p. 2, m. 6.

(85). Pat. Rolls, 23 Edw. III, p. 3, m. 33.

(86). Pat. Rolls, 23 Edw. III, p. 3, m. 25.

(87). *Ibid.*, m. 19.

(88). Add. MSS. 6165, pp. 13, 14, 15, 16.



1. *Sutton*.—The return was made before Thomas Cary, the king's eschaetor, on the 17th of September, 1349, and the jurors were William Trete, Thomas Harecoubme, John Mapoudre, John atte Oke, Walter Cothyng, Hugh Love, and Robert le Newman. They reported that there were here divers buildings which were of no yearly value beyond reprises. Also one dovecot, worth 2s. a year, also one garden, with its produce, when any, worth 12*d.* a year, herbage of the same worth 12*d.* That year, however, there was no produce. Also one water-mill, worth besides reprises, 2s., and not more, for in summer it could not be worked from lack of water. Also one wind-mill, worth, per annum, 3s. 4*d.*; also one hundred acres of arable land, whereof two parts could be in cultivation every year, and then worth 36s. 6*d.*, at the rate of 6*d.* an acre, and the third part lying in common and fallow, and so of no value. Also twenty acres of meadow, enclosed from the feast of the Purification to that of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, and worth 30s., at the rate of 18*d.* an acre. Also twelve acres of pasture worth 6s. a year. Also assessed rents, payable in equal portions at Michaelmas, Christmas, Easter, and the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, £4. Pleas and perquisites of the courts, worth 40*d.* a year. Sum total of the value of Sutton, £8 23*d.*

2. *Lenge*.—Return made before the same eschaetor, and on the day and year aforesaid. Jurors, Nicholas Aylward, John Joyote, William Frend, Edward le Tayllour, Richard Toky, and Simon Louyere. The report sets forth that there are there certain buildings of no value beyond reprises. Also one garden, the produce, when any, worth 12*d.* per annum, herbage of the same, worth 12*d.*, also two mills worth 10s. a year. Also four score acres of arable land, two parts of which could be sown every year, and then worth 24s., at the rate of 6*d.* an acre, the third part in common and fallow, and so of no value. Also twenty acres of meadow, enclosed from the feast of the Purification to the carrying of the crop, worth 25s., at the

rate of 15*d.* an acre. Assessed rents payable as aforesaid, 70*s.*, also eight acres of pasture, worth 4*s.* a year. Also from the lord's larder at the feast of St. Martin, 12*d.* Also one fair on the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, worth 12*d.* Pleas and perquisites of the courts worth 2*s.* a year. Sum total, £6 19*s.*

3. *Ilton*.—Returns made before the same escheator, and on the same day and year. Jurors, John Bygge, Richard Bygge, John Palmere, Thomas Achewy, William Sawyere, John Cauntiloo, and others. They report that there are there certain buildings of no yearly value beyond their repair. Also one garden, the fruit, when any, worth 12*d.* a year, and the herbage of the same worth 12*d.* Also twenty acres of wood, in which there is no underwood, but the herbage of the same worth 4*s.* Also seventy acres of arable land, whereof two parts may be sown every year, and then are worth 35*s.*, at the rate of 6*d.* per acre, the third part in common and fallow and of no value. Also eighteen acres of meadow, worth 28*s.* a year, and not more, because the land is in common after the hay is carried. Also eight acres of pasture, worth 4*s.* Also assessed rents, payable as aforesaid, 53*s.* 4*d.* Also pleas and perquisites of the court, worth 20*d.* a year; sum total, 108*s.*

4. *Hurdecote*.—Returns made before the same eschaetor, the 20th September. Jurors, John Spye, Nicholas Gibbe, Peter le Whyte, Walter Toby, William Roger, Thomas Hanel, and others. They report that there are there also certain buildings of no value beyond their repair. Also one garden, the fruit, when any, worth 12*d.* a year, the herbage, 12*d.* Also fifty-five acres of arable land, whereof two parts may be sown every year and then worth 27*s.* 6*d.* a year, at the rate of 6*d.* an acre. Also seven acres of meadow, worth 7*s.* a year. Also four acres of pasture, worth 2*s.* a year. Also assessed rents, payable as aforesaid, 32*s.* Also pleas and perquisites of the court, worth 12*d.* a year. Sum total, 71*s.* 6*d.*

5. *Pourscaundel*.—Returns made before the same eschaetor and on the same day as the last. Jurors, John —, William atte More, William Cliffard, John Slape, Richard Russell, Walter atte Mulle, and others. They report that there are there certain buildings of no yearly value beyond reprises. Also thirty acres of arable land, whereof half may be sown and then worth 10s., at the rate of 4*d.* an acre<sup>89</sup>; and the third part in common and fallow and so of no value. Also five acres of meadow enclosed from the feast of the Purification to the carrying of the hay, worth 5*s.* a year. Also six acres of pasture, worth 3*s.* a year, at the rate of 6*d.* an acre. Also assessed rents of the free tenants there, payable as aforesaid, 8*s.* Pleas of the courts there, none. Sum total, 26*s.*<sup>90</sup>

The total temporalities of the abbey, therefore, in the year 1349, would appear to amount to the annual value of £25 6*s.* 5*d.*

The church of Long Sutton had another vicar in 1362. On the 30th March in that year, Walter de Cory was presented to that vicarage by Robert Hacche, abbat, and convent.<sup>91</sup>

On the 10th of July, 1363, a writ, dated at Westminster, was issued to John de Bekynton, the king's eschaetor, as to whether it would be to the king's damage if John Bays, John Irissh and John Troubrug, the vicar of North Cory, were to give one messuage, fifty acres of arable, and three acres of meadow, with their appurtenances in Lange-Sutton, to the abbat and convent of Athelneye for finding a wax taper burning every day during mass before the high altar of the abbey church in behalf of the soul of John Sloo, and of his ancestors, and of all the faithful departed. The inquest, accordingly, was taken at Somerton, on the 24th of July, 1363, and the verdict was favourable. The lands were reported as held by a rent of 2*s.* a year, and suit twice a year at the abbat's court in Lange-sutton for all services. It is further stated that the said

(89). There is some confusion here.

(90). Add. MSS. 6165, pp. 13, 14, 15, 16.

(91). MS. Harl. 6964, p. 146.

abbat held them of the king in chief by military service, that they were worth in all issues 8*s.* 6*d.*, besides the rent already mentioned, and that there were no other mesne men between the king and the aforesaid.<sup>92</sup>

In the beginning of the following year another writ was addressed to the same eschaetor, as to whether it would be to the king's damage if Walter de Clopton and Henry Hacche were to give one messuage and the moiety of one carucate of land, with their appurtenances in Northpetherton to the abbat and convent; and also if the said Walter and Henry should allow one messuage and the moiety of one carucate of land with its appurtenances in the same vill, of which they had the reversion after the decease of one Margaret Clanyll, should revert after such decease to the abbat and convent for finding a certain chaplain beyond the number of the canons in the abbey, to pray for the health of Walter and Henry during their life, and after their decease, for their souls and those of all the faithful departed. This was dated at Westminster, the 21st of January, 1364-5. The inquest was held at Brugge-water on the 3rd of February following, Roger Sydenham, John Gonecorps, Nicholas Elworthy, Robert Stilard, William Mustard, John Peeche, Thomas Coglude, John Duce, John Andreseye, John Wedge, Walter Bereford, and Peter Grobham, being jurors. The verdict was favourable. The land was held of John de Erlegh, by knight service, and he of the king in chief. The value was 20*s.*, and there were no other mesne men beside the aforesaid.<sup>93</sup> The letters patent completing this transaction are dated at Westminster, the 26th of January, 1365-6.<sup>94</sup>

In the Somerset assize, held at Yvelcester, before William de Wychyngnam and Edmund de Chelrege, justices, on Monday next after the feast of St. Gregory, pope, in the forty-first

(92). Inq. ad q. d., 39 Edw. III, n. 16.

(93). Inq. ad q. d., 39 Edw. III, n. 17-

(94). Pat. Rolls, 40 Edw. III, p. 1, m. 44.

year of Edward III, which is coincident with the 15th of March, 1367, an issue was tried between Robert, Abbat of Athelneye, William Waryn, monk of the same house, Thomas Baillyf, of Lange-sutton, and Thomas le Hayward and Robert Rede, of the same, on the one side, and Robert and John Longh, on the other, as to whether the former had unjustly disseised the latter of common of pasture in Lange-sutton, pertaining to a free tenement of theirs in the same vill. The land referred to amounted to one hundred acres of arable land, and one hundred and twenty acres of pasture. The jury held that with reference to their common in the arable land Robert and John were seised of the same time out of mind, and that they had not been disseised as they complained; that with reference to the common in the hundred acres of pasture they were also seised; that the abbat and the others with him by taking and impounding certain oxen, had unjustly disseised the said Robert and John; that with reference to their common in the aforesaid twenty acres of pasture the said Robert and John were seised, but that the said abbot had enclosed the land with a ditch so that access was denied to the complainants and that they were thus unjustly disseised. And they assessed their damage to the amount of 40*s.* It was decided that Robert and John should recover their seisin in the aforesaid hundred and twenty four acres, and their damages. The abbat and his party satisfied the aforesaid Robert and John Longh. He and his fellow monk paid a fine of 10*s.*, and each of the others, Thomas Baillyf, Thomas le Hayward and Robert Rede, a fine of 2*s.* by the pledging of Walter de Cloptun, Mathew de Clyvedon and Richard Brit.<sup>95</sup>

More than three years elapsed before there was an addition to the abbey revenues. A writ was then addressed to the king's eschaetor, William Cheyne, as to whether it would be to the king's damage if Richard Sydenham, John Hayt, clerk, and John Stanwygg, chaplain, were to give and assign one

(95). *Vide* Pat. Rolls, 30 Henry VI, p. 1, m. 19.



toft, fifty-four acres of arable land, eight acres of meadow, three acres of pasture, and two acres of wood, together with four pence of rent, with appurtenances, in Ilton to the abbat and convent of Athelyngneye, for the finding of a lamp continually burning for ever before the crucifix in the abbey church. The writ was dated at Westminster, the 26th of June, 1370. The inquest in consequence was held at Ilmynstre, on the Tuesday next after the feast of St. Margaret, the 23rd of July, 1370; and the jurors, who were Adam Swyft, William Hucker, William Moure, Richard Couk, William Walrond, William Dounham, William Sherp, Robert Hare, Thomas Deme, Laurence Wyly, Robert Davy and Thomas Ansty, returned a favourable verdict. The property was held of the king in chief by knight service, and was worth in all issues 13s. 4d., exclusive of the aforesaid rent. There were no more mesne men between the king and the aforesaid.<sup>96</sup> The king's letters patent, granting the licence, are dated at Claryndon, the 26th of the same month.<sup>97</sup>

Early in the following year, another writ was similarly addressed to the same officer, as to whether it would or would not be to the king's damage if John Bays, John Stanwygg, chaplain, John Irysh, chaplain, and Henry Chynnock, chaplain, were to give and assign to the abbat and convent of Athelnye, one messuage, two curtilages, one toft, fifty-four acres of arable land, seven acres of meadow, and one acre of pasture with appurtenances, in Lange-sutton, for the finding of two wax-tapers for ever, in the church of the said abbey, every day burning before the high altar at high mass. The writ was dated at Westminster, the 1st of February, 1370-1. The inquest was held at Ivell, on the 6th of June, and together with a favourable verdict the jurors reported that the lands were held by knight service, at a rent to the abbey of 2s. a year for all service; and that the abbey held them of the king

(96). Inq. p.m., 44 Edw. III, 2nd nos. n. 31.

(97). Pat. Rolls, 44 Edw. III, p. 2, m. 8.

in pure and perpetual alms; that they were worth 11*s.* a year, exclusive of the rent, and that there were no more mesne men between the king and the four aforesaid.<sup>98</sup> The letters patent for legalising this donation were obtained at a fine of one hundred shillings from abbat and convent, and are dated at Westminster the 4th of November, 1372.<sup>99</sup>

We learn subsequently that a property was given during the same year, situated at Littelmores, which was the subject of legal proceedings in the year 1382. The details of these proceedings will shortly be before us, and to these I refer the reader for the particulars of the gift.

This indeed was the age of donations to the abbey, and although the individual benefactions were usually small, the aggregate amounted to a considerable income. On the 26th of June, 1374, a writ was addressed to Adam atte More, the king's eschaetor, with the usual enquiries as to whether, without harm to the king, John Hayt, clerk, and Henry Hacche, clerk, might give and assign two acres of meadow with appurtenances in Lange-sutton, to the abbat and convent of Athelney, to find a certain wax taper daily before the high altar in the abbey church, burning at high mass. An inquest was held at Ivelchester, on the Monday after the feast of St. (*sic.* MS.) The land was held of the aforesaid abbat as of his manor of Lange-sutton, by knight service, and he of the king in chief, also by knight service, and was worth 3*s.* a year in all issues.<sup>100</sup> After a fine from the abbat and convent of thirteen shillings and four pence, the king's letters patent were issued, dated at Westminster, the 16th of August, 1374.<sup>101</sup>

On the 22nd of February, 1378, there was an election of a Dean of Wells, at which was present Robert, abbat of Athelney and prebendary of Sutton.<sup>102</sup>

(98). Inq. ad q. d., 45 Edw. III, n. 4.

(99). Pat. Rolls, 46 Edw. III, p. 2, m. 13.

(100). Inq. p.m., 48 Edw. III, 2nd. nos., n. 4.

(101). Pat. Rolls, 48 Edw. III, p. 1, m. 3.

(102). MS. Harl. 6968. pp. 140, 141.

It appears that John Hayt and Henry Hacche had subsequently made another gift of the land just mentioned to the abbat and convent, dated the 6th of May, 1376. The royal licence had not been obtained for this procedure, and the king's eschaetor had interfered and appropriated the gift. It was represented, however, that the property was the same which had been previously granted according to law. A writ was therefore issued, to William Style, the eschaetor, commanding that if the two acres aforesaid were the same as the other two acres, they should be released, and that the abbot and convent should be put in possession. The writ, which was privately addressed to the eschaetor, was dated at Westminster, the 8th of February, 1379-80.<sup>103</sup>

A year after this, letters patent were granted for a fine of eleven marcs, authorising Henry Hacche to give two mesuages, fifty-four acres of arable land and nine acres of meadow, with appurtenances in Lange-sutton, of which he possessed the reversion after the decease of Walter Clopton, to the abbat and convent, to find a lamp before the high altar in the abbey church of St. Saviour of Athelnye, there in honour of the body of Christ, constantly burning for ever. The letters were dated at Westminster, the 10th of February, 1381-2.<sup>104</sup>

The same year a writ was addressed to John Rodeston, the eschaetor, as to whether John de Beauchamp, of Lillisdon, Matthew de Clyvedon, and Elias Spelly, might give two-hundred-and-twenty acres of pasture in their moor, called the Saltmore, in their manor of Stathe, to the abbat and convent, to be by them and their successors held and enclosed, in exchange for common of pasture, which the said abbat and convent had with all and singular, their beasts and cattle, in the same moor, to be surrendered and all claims renounced by the said abbat and convent to the said John, Matthew, and Elias. The writ was dated at Westminster, the 24th of June,

(103). Rot. Claus., 3 Richard II, m. 11.

(104). Pat. Rolls, 5 Richard II, p. 2, m. 31.

1382. The inquest was held at Bruggewater, on the 28th of October following, and the jurors reported that the pasture to be assigned was worth 110s. a year, and that the common of pasture to be surrendered was worth 100s. in all issues, that John Dynham was mesne and none other; concluding, as usual, with the declaration that the donors had other property sufficient for the payment of all demands—in the present case, six-hundred acres of moor, in the same moor, parcel of the manor of Stath.<sup>105</sup> The letters patent are dated at Westminster, the 25th of April, 1383.<sup>106</sup>

Before the end of the year a writ of certiorari was addressed to the barons of the Exchequer, touching the possession by the abbat and convent of a certain pasture, called Litteltmore, of thirty-four acres, with appurtenances in Langsutton of the value of 66s. 8d. The royal licence had not been obtained, and the land was in the king's hands. The rolls of the period, the forty-sixth year of Edward III, were to be examined and their tenor to be reported. The writ was dated at Westminster, the 1st of December, 1382. On examination of the roll it was found that a return had been made of 31s. 4d. of issues of such a pasture, which was of the yearly value of 66s. 8d., and that the abbat and convent had become possessed of the same, ten years before the date of the present report, from Elizabeth, widow of Ralph de Middelney, John Corbyn, and Richard Hare.<sup>107</sup> On the 4th of the same month of December, letters patent were issued conveying the royal pardon for various informalities connected with the acquisition of the property. This document is well worthy of abstraction. It is stated that the lands aforesaid had been obtained without the royal licence, and that the eschaetor had accordingly taken them into the king's hands: that subsequently the abbot had asserted that he and very many of his predecessors had

(105). Inq. p.m., 6 Richard II, n. 156.

(106). Pat. Rolls, 6 Richard II, p. 3, m. 16.

(107). Inq. p.m., 7 Richard II, n. 157.

been seised in their domains of the fee as of the right of their church from time out of mind, of the aforesaid pasture as a parcel of their manor of Langsutton, held by them from the abbey's foundation : that in regard of eight of the aforesaid thirty-four acres they were the same, as had been the several of Elizabeth, lady of the manor of Knolle, from the feast of the Purification to the Gule or 1st of August, in other words, to the cutting and carrying of the hay, without other profit, and that the abbat and convent had had the profit of the same to Michaelmas, and from Michaelmas to the feast of the Purification : that the aforesaid Elizabeth had common of pasture in the said eight acres and also in the whole of the remainder of the pasture aforesaid in Littelmere, with eight oxen and one boar, which common of pasture was an appurtenance of the manor of Knolle aforesaid : that the abbat and convent were in the habit of taking in and feeding their own beasts and those of others, and of deriving the profits during the same time : that the said Elizabeth had released and given up all claims to all her aforesaid profit to the abbat and his successors, namely the crops of the meadow worth 10s. a year, and the pasture for eight oxen and one boar worth 12*d.* a year : that the other two acres of the said pasture are meadow, in which John Hait, clerk, and Henry Hacche have a similar profit for the time aforesaid : that the abbat and convent had this profit for one year, by the grant of the said John and Henry, before the moor was taken into the king's royal grandfather's hands : that it had been considered accordingly that the aforesaid eight acres should remain in the hand of the king, and that all the profits aforesaid should be accounted for by the abbat and convent : that the aforesaid two acres should similarly remain in the king's hands and be similarly accounted for ; and that the remainder of the pasture, to wit, the twenty-four acres, should be removed from the king's hands, according to the tenor of the record aforesaid. The letters after conveying the pardon for the informal transfer,



restore, give, and assign to the abbat and convent, the aforesaid ten acres of meadow, and the said pasture for eight oxen and one boar, to be held of the lords of the fee by the same services as they were before they came into the king's hands. The fine was one hundred shillings, and the letters were dated at Westminster, the 4th of December, 1382.<sup>108</sup>

Abbat Robert de Hacche died in the beginning of October, 1390. On the 7th of October, the king's licence was granted to elect a successor. John Hywyssh the prior was elected, and obtained the royal assent on the 18th of October, 1390. The temporalities were restored on the 2nd of November following. As a specimen of the instrument used on these occasions, my reader may be glad if I furnish him with the following in literal translation :

“Licence of electing. The king to his beloved in Christ, the Prior and Convent of Athelneye, health. A humble petition has been offered to us on your part, that whereas your aforesaid church by the decease of Robert of blessed memory, abbat of that place, is deprived of the comfort of a pastor, we would be pleased to grant to you licence to choose another for abbat and pastor.—We, being favourably inclined to your prayers in this behalf, have thought fit to grant to you that licence, commanding you to choose for yourself such a one for your abbat and pastor who may be devoted to God, necessary to your church, and useful and faithful to us and to our kingdom. In testimony whereof, etc. Witness the king, at Westminster, the 7th day of October.<sup>109</sup>

“Royal assent. The king to the venerable father in Christ R[alph Ergum], by the same grace Bishop of Bath and Wells, health. Know ye that to the election lately made in the conventual church of Adelneya, of John Hywyssh, prior of the same church, to be abbat of that place, we have added our

(108). Pat. Rolls, 6 Richard II, p. 3, m. 14.

[From the words *of pasture in the said eight acres* to this date is scored through with pencil in the MS.]

(109). Pat. Rolls, 14 Richard II, p. i, m. 20.

royal assent and favour, And this we signify to you by the tenor of these presents, that you fulfil what is yours in this behalf. In testimony whereof, etc. Witness the king at Westminster the 18th day of October.”<sup>110</sup>

“Restitution of temporalities. The king to his beloved Edward Bokelond, his eschaetor in the counties of Somerset and Dorset, health. Whereas the venerable father R., Bishop of Bath and Wells, hath confirmed the election lately made in the conventual church of Athelney, of our beloved in Christ John Hewysssh, monk of the same House, to be abbat of that place, to whom we have before given our royal assent and favour, as by these letters patent of the said bishop directed to us from thence, assure us,—We, accepting that confirmation, have taken the fealty of the said clerk, and restore to the same the temporalities of the said abbey according to custom. And so we command you, that you deliver to the said clerk the aforesaid temporalities with their appurtenances in your bailiwick in the form aforesaid. Saving our right, etc. Witness the king at Westminster, the second day of November. And it is commanded to the knights, freemen, and all other tenants of the aforesaid abbacy, that they be obedient and accountant to the said clerk as to their abbat and lord in all things that pertain to the abbacy aforesaid. In testimony whereof, etc. Witness, as above.”<sup>111</sup>

On the 4th of August, 1391,<sup>112</sup> Brother John Huwysch, Abbat of Athelney and Prebendary of Long-sutton, took the oath in the chapter house of Wells to observe the statutes of that church.<sup>113</sup>

On the 6th of February, 1396-7, a writ was addressed to Thomas Cammel, the king’s eschaetor, with the usual questions as to whether the Abbat of Glastonbury might give

(110). Pat. Rolls, 14 Richard II, p. i, m. 17.

(111). Pat. Rolls, 14 Richard II, p. 1, m. 13.

(112). From “On the 4th of August” to the words “valuation of the property” is scored with pencil.

(113). MS. Harl. 6968, p. 148.

twenty-four acres of arable land and four acres of meadow with appurtenances, in Lange-sutton, to the abbat and convent of Athelney, in pure and perpetual alms. The writ was dated at Westminster on the day aforesaid. The inquest was held at Yevelchester, on Monday, the 10th of September, in the same year, and the jurors, John Lilleshull, John Walton, Thomas Ponton, John Burey, John Lernwyd, Robert Coker, John Notyere, Nicholas Felpus, John Boreford, John Bonde, Adam Stere, and William Grey, reported that the Abbat of Athelney held the lands aforesaid, as of his manor of Langesutton by knight service, that they were worth in all issues besides reprises, 10s. a year, that the Abbat of Athelney held the said manor in chief of Elizabeth Julers, Countess of Kent, as of her manor of Somerton, and the said Elizabeth of the king-in-chief, and that the aforesaid Abbat of Athelney and the said Elizabeth were the mesnes between the king and the Abbat of Glastonbury.<sup>114</sup>

In an inquest taken on the 23rd of July, 1397, after the decease of William de Montacute, Earl of Salisbury, who died on the third of June, 1397, in obedience to a precept dated at Westminster, the 8th of June, 1397, among the fees pertaining to his manor of Shipton Mountagu, mention is made of the eighth part of one knight's fee in Hoggeshole, as held by the Abbat of Athelney, and worth 12s. 6d. a year.<sup>115</sup>

Two years after this, Athelney lost her abbat. John Hywyssh died on the 11th of June, 1399. The licence to elect a successor was dated (witness, Edward, Duke of York, protector), at Westminster, the 16th of that month.<sup>116</sup> The royal assent was given to the election, in the conventual church of S. Athelwyn of Athelney, of Brother John Brygge, prior of the house, on the 24th of June,<sup>117</sup> and the restoration of the tem-

(114). Annexed to Inq. ad q. d., 1 Hen. IV, n. 31.

(115). Inq. p.m., 20 Richard II, n. 35, t. 6a.

(116). Pat. Rolls, 22 Richard II, p. 3, m. 5

(117). Pat. Rolls, 23 Richard II, m. 7.

poralities was dated, Witness the lord keeper, at S. Albans, on the 10th of July.<sup>118</sup>

We have another important document of the present period in the shape of the valuation of the property upon the death of the late abbat. It is very similar to that with which I have already made the reader acquainted, and taken exactly fifty years before. I need not, therefore, give it in detail, but merely furnish the additions and the few other points of variation which it presents.

It was taken at Bruggewater, before Thomas Bathe, the king's eschaetor, on the 10th of August, 1399. The jurors were William Thorner [or Thomer], Robert Leigh, John Mucheldene, Richard de la Mare, Richard Wely, Ralph Barwe, John Bokelond, Richard Mauncell, John Broke, — Okerford, John Magot, and John Mareden.

In the returns for Sutton, two or three of the items must be noticed. The garden must have been but an indifferent one, for in the year of the latter valuation also there was no produce. The arable was worth, when in cultivation, 33*s.* 4*d.*, but 36*s.* 6*d.* in the former. The twenty acres of meadow were worth 12*d.* an acre, although they figured in the previous return as worth 18*d.* an acre.

In the return for Lenge, the garden had deteriorated. It had been worth 12*d.*, and its herbage of the same value. It was now worth 4*d.*, and its herbage 6*d.* The mills formerly worth 10*s.* were now worth 8*s.* The twenty acres of meadow worth before 25*s.*, now worth 20*s.*

In the return for Hurdecote, the garden, whose fruit was worth 12*d.*, is now estimated at 3*d.*, and its herbage, formerly worth 12*d.*, is now worth 4*d.*

In the return for Ilton, the garden, which had been worth 12*d.*, and its herbage 12*d.*, is now worth 8*d.*, and its herbage 8*d.* The herbage of the wood formerly valued at 4*s.*, is now worth 20*d.* The meadow land, of fourteen acres, is worth 18*s.*

(118). Pat. Rolls, 23 Richard II, m. 7.

The estate of Purscandel is not included in this extent, but instead of it we have an interesting and valuable addition in a return for Chavelesheigh (Claveshey). Here is said to be one carucate containing one hundred acres of land, held of Thomas Beaupeny, as of his manor of North Petherton. This land can be sown one year, and afterwards cannot be sown for ten years, on account of the poverty of the soil. In the year of its cultivation it is worth 16s. 8d., at the rate of 2d. an acre. Every year that it is not sown the pasture on it is worth 8s. 4d., at the rate of 1d. an acre.<sup>119</sup>

In the middle of the following year, another writ was addressed to the eschaetor with reference to the land in Lange-sutton, proposed to be given to the abbat and convent by the Abbat of Glastonbury. The answer thereunto annexed I have already given. The writ was dated at Westminster, the second of July, 1400.<sup>120</sup>

On the 26th of May, 1410, Richard Courtenay, Canon of Wells, was elected dean of that church. The Abbat of Athel-negh and his brother of Muchelney were summoned to the election. They did not, however, appear and were pronounced contumacious.<sup>121</sup>

On the 18th of November, 1415, a convocation of the clergy was held in the church of St. Paul, in London. Among the chief dignitaries of Somerset, cited to attend it, was John [Brygge], Abbat of Athelney.<sup>122</sup>

This was the last act that I can record of this abbot. He died early in November, 1424. The licence to elect a successor to him, conveyed in exactly the same terms as those already given, was dated at Westminster, the 13th of November.<sup>123</sup> The royal assent was given at Westminster, on the 28th of the same month, to brother John Petherton, monk of

(119). Add. MS. 6165, pp. 117, 118.

(120). Inq. ad q. d., 1 Hen. IV, n. 31.

(121). MS. Harl. 6966, pp. 29, 30.

(122). MS. Harl. 6966, p. 21.

(123). Pat. Rolls, 3 Hen. VI, p. 1, m. 17.



the house,<sup>124</sup> and the restoration of the temporalities at Westminster, the 10th of December, 1424.<sup>125</sup>

On the (*sic.* MS.), 1430, letters patent were issued for the repayment of a series of loans. Among them are those of twenty marcs to the Abbat of Michelney, of forty pounds to the Dean of Wells, of ten marcs to the men of Wells, of fifteen pounds to the men of Taunton, of twenty marcs to the men of Bath, and of twenty pounds to the Abbat of Athelney.<sup>126</sup>

The following year brought a fresh accession of property. Richard Kemp, of Langesutton, released and surrendered to the abbat and convent all claims present and future in respect of all lands, tenements, services, and reversions with all appurtenances in Langesutton, called Litellode, and common of pasture for eight oxen and one mare with foal in a close belonging to the same abbot and convent, called Rademore, in Langesutton aforesaid. To this were annexed the usual declarations of warranty and acquittance, and the apposition of his seal. Inasmuch, however, as his seal was not generally known, he procured the seals of John Warr, esquire, and of John Beauchamp, of Lillesdon, Esquire, then present to be added in attestation of the genuine nature of the gift. The witnesses present were Henry Sherard, Thomas Micheldever, John Maunsell, William Note, John Irlond, and others. The instrument was dated at Athelney, the 30th of May, 1431. The donor attended the chancery at Westminster, and admitted the aforesaid and all things contained in the same, on the 10th of November, 1437.<sup>127</sup>

John Pederton, Abbat of Athelney, was summoned to the council of Ferrara, in April, 1438.<sup>128</sup>

On the 26th August, 1446, the same abbat was present in

(124). Pat. Rolls, 3 Hen. VI, p. 1, m. 16.

(125). Pat. Rolls, 3 Hen. VI, p. 1, m. 12.

(126). Pat. Rolls, 8 Hen. VI, p. 2, m. 18.

(127). Claus., 16 Hen. VI, m. 15, dors.

(128). MS. Harl. 6966, pp. 49, 50.

person at Wells, on the election of a dean of that church.<sup>129</sup>

An exemplification of the legal procedure connected with certain common of pasture in Langesutton in the forty-first year of King Edward III, an account of which will be found under that date, was made at the request of Abbat John Perderton, at Westminster, on the 29th of November, 1451.<sup>130</sup> The exemplification is a copy of letter patent previously granted, in order to be used for pleadings, and which is held to be as effectual for that purpose as the original from which it is taken.

Abbat John Pederton was gathered to his fathers on the 10th of February, 1457-8.<sup>131</sup> He had governed his house for the long space of thirty-four years. On the 15th of the same month the licence for election was issued.<sup>132</sup> Brother Robert Hylle, monk of the same house of St. Saviour of Athelney, was chosen on the 27th,<sup>133</sup> received the royal assent on the 4th,<sup>134</sup> was confirmed abbat on the 11th,<sup>135</sup> and had the temporalities restored to him on the 14th of the following month of March.<sup>136</sup> At his election nine monks were present and two were absent.<sup>136\*</sup>

On the 19th of June, 1462, licence was granted by the Bishop of Bath and Wells to Abbat Robert Hille to have divine service celebrated in his oratory.<sup>137</sup> This would appear to have been attached to his lodgings, but whether the licence was granted on account of some repair or rebuilding of the church, or of some bodily infirmity of the abbat himself, we are without the means of deciding.

William Wytham, Dean of Wells, died on the 16th of July, 1472, and on the 18th of December his successor was elected.

(129). MS. Harl. 6966, p. 117.

(130). Pat. Rolls, 30 Hen. VI, p. 1 m. 19.

(131). MS. Harl. 6966, p. 119.

(132). Pat. Rolls, 36 Hen. VI, p. 2, m. 16.

(133). MS. Harl. 6966, p. 119.

(134). Pat. Rolls, *ibid.*

(135). MS. Harl., *ibid.*

(136). Pat. Rolls, *ibid.*

(136\*). Dr. Archer.

(137). MS. Harl. 6966, p. 102.

Robert Hyll, Abbat of Athelney, did not attend this election, and with John Bracy, Abbat of Muchelney, his brother prebendary, who was similarly absent, was pronounced contumacious.<sup>138</sup>

He also departed this life on the 10th of October, 1485, and on the 29th of the same month John George, prior of the house, was elected his successor.<sup>139</sup> Eleven monks were then in the house.<sup>140</sup>

On the 2nd of March, 1497-8, John Dyer was appointed to the vicarage of Longsutton, void by death of John Pym, on the presentation of the abbat and convent.<sup>141</sup>

Abbat John George was cited to Wells, at the election of a dean on Christmas Day, 1498.<sup>142</sup>

On the 17th of August, 1499, the feast of the dedication of the abbey church was changed from the 20th of December, the eve of St. Thomas the Apostle, on which day it had been dedicated in honour of our blessed Saviour, to the 30th of August, the feast of SS. Felix and Adanctus, martyrs.<sup>143</sup> This makes it not improbable that the licence was granted for using the abbat's oratory for the celebration of divine service on account of some extensive repairs to, if not the entire rebuilding of, the conventual church, the completion of which was commemorated by altering the festival of its dedication to the day on which it was again used for sacred employment.

These labours were among the last of Abbat George's rule. On the 23rd of May, 1502, he is mentioned as patron of the vicarage of Lenge,<sup>144</sup> and in less than a year afterwards he left his monastery to the hands of his successor. It would not appear that the house was at this time in a very creditable state, for on the 20th May, 1503, a commission was issued to examine

(138). MS. Harl. 6966, p. 143.

(139). MS. Harl. 6966, p. 144.

(140). *Dr. Archer.*

(141). MS. Harl. 6966, p. 152.

(142). MS. Harl. 6966, p. 175.

(143). MS. Harl. 6966, p. 156.

(144). MS. Harl. 6966, p. 163.

the state of the monastery, then vacant by the death of the late abbat.<sup>145</sup>

He was probably a very aged man, and had been the head of his house for eighteen years.

In July, Athelney received another abbat in the person of John Wellyngton. He was confirmed in his office on the 27th of July, 1503,<sup>146</sup> and was installed personally in his prebend of Langsutton on the 8th of the following month.<sup>147</sup>

On the 17th of April, 1506, John Fry was presented by the abbat and convent to the vicarage of Long-sutton, void by the death of John Dier.<sup>148</sup>

The abbat and convent presented John Symmys to the vicarage of Lenge, void by the death of Richard Dale, on the 5th of December, 1508.<sup>149</sup>

In December, 1509, Abbat John Wellyngton was cited to convocation with the other chief dignitaries in the diocese.<sup>150</sup>

On the 12th of August, 1510, Robert Macreth was presented by the abbat and convent to the vicarage of Lynge, void by the resignation of John Symmys.<sup>151</sup>

The pension of 40s. a year from the rectory of Selworth to the abbat and convent, given by Sir Richard de Locumbe, patron of that church, which, as we have already seen, was confirmed by the good Bishop Savaricus, was paid on the 26th of June, 1512, by the rector of the said church. It appears to have gone into desuetude, but to have been amicably restored without a recourse to law for its recovery.<sup>152</sup>

John Wellyngton, abbat, was summoned to convocation in June, 1514.<sup>153</sup>

(145). MS. Harl. 6966, p. 167.

(146). MS. Harl. 6966, p. 174.

(147). MS. Harl. 6966, p. 42.

(148). MS. Harl. 6967, f. 5b.

(149). MS. Harl. 6967, f. 10.

(150). MS. Harl. 6967, f. 12.

(151). MS. Harl. 6967, f. 13.

(152). MS. Harl. 6967, f. 15b.

(153). MS. Harl. 6967, f. 19b.

He died at the end of the year 1516, for so early as the 7th of January, 1516-7, Richard Wraxall, his successor, was confirmed in his office, and by virtue thereof was inducted into his prebend of Sutton in the cathedral church of Wells.<sup>154</sup>

John Androw was presented by the abbat and convent to the vicarage of Leng, on the death of Robert Makreth, on the 27th of September, 1519.<sup>155</sup> And on the 27th of August, 1521, John Mors was presented by the same to the vicarage of the prebendal church of Longsutton, on the death of John Fry.<sup>156</sup>

On the 16th of December, 1525, William Majorensis Episcopus was presented to the vicarage of South Petherton, vacant by the death of Christopher Gunmaldun, by John Herte, Abbat of Athelney, and Richard Tomlyn, rector of Wryngton, patrons for that turn, by the concession of William, Abbat of Bruton, and his convent, to which that church was appropriated.<sup>157</sup>

On the 28th of May, 1526, William Harte, possibly a brother of the abbat, was presented by the abbat and convent to the vicarage of Longsutton, void by the resignation of William Chamberlayne.<sup>158</sup>

Abbat John Herte died soon after this occurrence, for on the 12th of March, 1527-8, Thomas Sutton, abbat, and convent of Atheney, granted to John Ambros, bachelor of music, an annuity of 53*s.* 4*d.*, issuing from their manor of Long Sutton, to be paid in equal portions at the four terms of the year. If not paid within fourteen days after the times appointed, the said John was empowered to enter and distrain on the aforesaid manor. This grant was allowed, with arrears from the dissolution, by the Court of Augmentation, on the 11th of November, 1540.<sup>159</sup>

(154). MS. Harl. 6967, f. 24*b*.

(155). MS. Harl. 6967, f. 26*b*.

(156). MS. Harl. 6967, f. 29*b*.

(157). MS. Harl. 6967, f. 37*b*.

(158). MS. Harl. 6967, f. 38.

(159). Decrees, vol. viii, f. 61.



In the month of January, 1529-30, the same Abbat Thomas Sutton and convent gave to John Chappell and Katherine his wife a certain portion of bread and ale, and on the 11th of November following, to the same John and Katherine certain lands and tenements in Long Sutton, of the yearly value of £4.<sup>160</sup>

The next year, Athelney received another superior in the person of John Maior. We have several orders granted by him and his convent to various individuals. On the 6th of September, 1531, they granted to John Horsey, of Clyston, in the county of Dorset, Esquire, for good counsel already given, and thereafter so to be, an annuity for life of 40s., issuing from their manor of Longesutton, to be paid at Michaelmas. After non-payment for a month he might enter and distrain. This also was allowed, with arrears from the dissolution, by the Court of Augmentation, on the 6th of November, 1539.<sup>161</sup>

On the 18th of December, 1531, the same John Maior, abbat, and convent, granted to Master William Englund, clerk, an annuity for life of £11 sterling, issuing out of their manor of Lenge, to be paid at Porlok at the four terms of the year, beginning from the Lady-day following. Non-payment empowered him to enter and distrain. Should they rescue or replevin for such distraint, they were to forfeit the sum of 100s. *totiens quotiens* by way of punishment. They put the aforesaid William into full possession and peaceful seisin of his annuity by the prepayment of 6s. 8d. This was allowed, with arrears, by the Court of Augmentation, on the 5th of May, 1543.<sup>162</sup>

On the 10th of June, 1532, the same John Maior, abbat, and convent of Athengleye, gave to John Chappell and Katherine his wife, in recompense and satisfaction and for the surrender of the lands, tenements, bread and ale before mentioned, an annuity of 40s., issuing from their manors of Lenge and Atheng-

(160). Decrees, vol. vi, f. 104.

(161). Decrees, vol. vii, f. 164.

(162). Decrees, vol. xiv, f. 19.

leye, for the life of the survivor, to be paid at the usual four terms of the year. Non-payment to empower the grantees to enter and distrain. This was allowed, with arrears from the dissolution, by the Court of Augmentation, on the 18th of October, 1539.<sup>163</sup>

On the 23rd of September, 1532, the same John Maior and convent gave, for certain causes specially moving them thereto, to Sir Thomas Crumwell, Lord Crumwell, an annuity of four marcs sterling, issuing from all their manors, messuages, lands, and tenements, payable at Lady Day and Michaelmas, to commence from the Michaelmas following. On non-payment the grantee might enter and distrain. Possession and seisin were given by the pre-payment of 12*d.* as part of the said annuity. This is clearly an instance of those compulsory payments which this insatiate robber and most of his unscrupulous agents exacted from the helpless victims whose entire destruction they were at the very time encompassing.

The grant was of course allowed with arrears from the Dissolution, together with similar extortions from thirty other religious houses, on the 23rd of September, 1532.<sup>164</sup>

On the 1st of October, in the same year, John Maior, abbat, and convent granted to their beloved friends, Richard Philleppe and Thomas his eldest son, for good counsel, the office of chief steward of their manor of Caundele Purs, in the county of Dorset. Also an annuity of 26*s.* 8*d.* issuing from the afore-said manor, payable at Michaelmas, with entrance and distraint on non-payment. Seisin was given by payment of 4*d.* sterling. This, with arrears from the Dissolution, was ordered by the Court of Augmentation, on the 8th of June, 1540.<sup>165</sup>

On the 13th of December, 1532, John Maior, abbat, and convent acknowledged themselves bound to John Newporte, merchant, in the sum of £40 sterling, to be paid to the said

(163). Decrees, vol. vi, f. 104.

(164). Decrees, vol. vi, f. 124*b.*

165). Decrees, vol. v, f. 223*b.*

John or his assigns at Michaelmas, 1534. The conclusion of the document is in the vulgar tongue, for the behoof of the unlearned, and sets forth that "The condicion of this obligacon is suche that if the above-bounden John Maior, abbott of the monastery of Athelney and his covent well and truly pay or cause to be paid unto the abovenamed John Newporte m'chaunte or to his assignes sevyen and twenty poundes and sixe pence of good and lawfull money of Englonde at the foresaid day abovenamed that then this obligacon to be void and of none effecte or els to stande in his full strength and vertue." The sum of £20 sterling in full recompense was allowed by the Court of Augmentation, on the 15th of November, 1540.<sup>166</sup>

The reader will perceive that we have now arrived at days when the clouds were rapidly gathering for the final storm. John Maior, whose last act I have just related, was happily spared the sight of the troubles that were close at hand, and the abbey received its last superior in the person of Robert Hamlyn, in 1533 (?). I have already in previous memoirs entered so fully into the successive steps of the movement against the religious houses, that nothing need now be added except the particulars immediately connected with the community on whose history we are specially employed. The first exercise known to me of the new abbat's office is his subscription to the Declaration of the Royal Supremacy. This was made in the ordinary form, and dated in the chapter-house of the monastery of St. Saviour of Adoney, on the 17th of September, 1534, and of the reign of the most invincible prince, Henry VIII, the twenty-sixth. The signatures are placed in four columns, at the foot of the document, and the magnificent seal in a mutilated condition is appended in the usual manner. The names of the community occupy the following order. In the first column are, Dom. Robert [Hamlyn], abbat, John Benett, John Laurens. In the second, Dom. Richard Welles, prior, Henry Ponyngs, John Stephyns. In the third, Dom.

Cuthbert Harvi, Robert Edgare, Richard Alffrede. In the fourth, John Athelwyn, Richard Athelstaun, Thomas Ansell, and Thomas Genynges.<sup>167</sup>

On the 13th of the following January, 1534-5, Robert Hamlyn, abbat, and convent granted to John Catcott, by the king's special command, a delivery of one loaf of monastic bread, one flagon of conventual ale, one dish of the kitchen, and thirteen shillings and fourpence of lawful English money : the food every day in the year during life, except Monday in each week when the said John should enjoy it as one of the household ; the money at Michaelmas. The said John was to hold and enjoy this grant as fully and entirely as William Testede, and John Sanffurde had previously done. The said John was at liberty to carry away the aforesaid delivery out of the monastery whither soever he pleased, and to dispose of the same according to his will without molestation from any one. Of this indenture, which was legal proof of this arrangement, one part was to remain with the said John, and the other in the hands of the abbat and convent. The Court of Augmentation allowed £4 sterling per annum in recompense and satisfaction, with arrears from the Dissolution on the 8th of November, 1539.<sup>168</sup>

At this time the value of the possessions of the religious houses was taken, which resulted in the returns called the *Valor Ecclesiasticus*. The total value of temporals and spirituals then belonging to the abbey is set down at £209 0s. 3¼d., and the tenth of the same at £20 18s. 0½d.<sup>169</sup>

On the 10th of April, 1536, the abbat wrote to Secretary Cromwell the following letter. It still exists among the Harleian MSS. in the British Museum, and gives us a sad and doubtless too true a picture of the pecuniary difficulties of the house. The abbat says :—

(167). Ex. Autograph in Off. Rec.

(168). Decrees, vol. vi, f. 90.

(169). Valor Eccl.

Honorabell & my Synguler good mast' my deuty co'syderyd I lowly have me co'mendyd vn to youre good masterschepe desyryng yow to be good mast' vn to me and to my poure howse, co's'nyng the payments of oure detts that I may be out of trobell & sutte of the lawe, & I am co'tentyd to leue as pourely as ony ma' schaldoo, of my degre, to the yntente that eu'y ma' may be the soner payd, worschypfull mast' deuyse su' menys that thys my pettysyon may take effecte & I am co'tentyd to abyde youre order y' thys behalffe. I truste to order me and my howse aft' suche a strayte facyon that I schal make payme't of a hundret pounds ev'y yere. I have send youre masterschepe a bocke of the detts & yerely fyes that my poure howse ys chargyd wt whyche ys very moche. I hartly desyre yow to take the paynes to ou' see hyt & to p' uide su' remedye & ye schal have our dayly p'ayers, as knowythe God who ev' have yow y' hys blessyd tuycon & send yow long lyffe. Wrytyn at Athelney the tenthe day of Abryle.

By youre poure bedysma' }  
Robert abbot of Athelney. }

Yff I cowlde have a frynd that wolde lene me iiij or v hu'dret pounds wtout ony p'phete or lucoure, I wolde gladly bynde me and my howse for the repayme't of a hundret pounds yerely vntyll the full sume be payde asstrongly as yt may be deuysyd by the lawe. Yff I hade mony to make payme't I schulde have moche mony remyttyd to paye the rest out of hande.

[*Endorsed.* Ye state of Athelney Abbey xth day of Aprile l'res from the Abbot of Athelney.]

Thys be oure that folowyethe

Vn to the kynggs grace a hundret markes.

Vn to my lorde of glastonebury iiij schore & tenne pounds.

Vn to the abbot of donxwell iiij schore pounds.

Vn to Mast' sop' of Tanton xl li.

Vn to mast' phylyps of poule xxxij li.

Vn to the vycare of more xx li.

Vn to mast' Newport of brygewatt xxvij li.



- Vn to John browne of ufcombe xx li.  
Vn to s' phylype Jordyn pryst xiiij li.  
Vn to thomas mors of northe currye xlvij li. xvjs<sup>e</sup> xd.  
Vn to s' rycherde Warre knythe lx li.  
Vn to John curle xxvij li.  
Vn to one thurston mede vj li. xiijs<sup>e</sup> iiijd.  
Vn to the churche of ylton vj li. xiijs<sup>e</sup> iiijd.  
Vn to s' John maior pryst vj li. xiijs<sup>e</sup> iiijd.  
Vn to the churche of curry ix li. & ode mony.  
Vn to the churche of thurloxton v li.  
Vn to John chapel of glastonbury x li.  
Vn to master anstrayge of brystow viij li. and ode mony.  
Vn to walt' yongge xvj li.  
Vn to wyll'am pyrsse vj li.  
Vn to John cheke viij li.  
Vn to Nych'us browne of tanton xlijs<sup>e</sup>.  
Vn to Ric' mychyll v li. xiijs<sup>e</sup> iiijd.  
Vn to Robert kene xls<sup>e</sup>.  
Vn to Jone payne xxxiijs<sup>e</sup> iiijd.  
Vn to one yu'y vij li.  
Vn to barnerde of tanton xlvjs<sup>e</sup> viijd.  
Vn to one moddyslye xxijs<sup>e</sup>.  
Vn to John goldysmythe of Tanton lse.  
Vn to Rogere bele xvijs<sup>e</sup> viijd.  
Vn to Wyll'm collynggs xviijs<sup>e</sup>.  
Vn to mast' smythe of brystow xxxvij li. vjs<sup>e</sup> jd.  
Vn to the p'or of tanton x li.  
Vn to the p'or of Saynt Joh'es of brygewatt' v li.  
Vn to Wyll'm harte xxvjs<sup>e</sup> viijd.  
Vn to John p'son viij li. and ode mony.  
Vn to Wyll'm gredy vj li.  
Vn to thomas alyn iij li. xiijs<sup>e</sup> iiijd.  
Vn to Master gytson of london vj li. xiijs<sup>e</sup> iiijd.  
Vn to s'gent thorneton ys exsecutours vij li.  
Vn to one norma' xxxiijs<sup>e</sup>.

Vn to wyll'm brygge iij li.

Vn to oure vycare of wellys v li. vjsē viijd.

Vn to one Vsman xvsē.

Vn to snow of lamport iij li.

Vn to wyll'm pott xxsē.

Vn to John p'son of sotton xlsē.

Vn to mastres port' of som'ton xxsē.

Vn to a furrer of tanton xxvjsē viijd.

Vn to a sadeler of tanton liijsē.

Vn to thomas howes xixsē.

thes su'mys folowyng ys my detts that I borowyd at my fyrst comyng to athelney to paye my ordynary chargs wt all. of my lorde of tauystoke xl li.

of Ric' mayow tauystoke l li.

of s' wyll'm courtenay xx li.

of Mr. s'uyngton of tauystoke xiiij li vjsē viijd.

of John wyll'ms of tauystoke v li.

Sum<sup>a</sup> tot<sup>l</sup> viij hundret iij schore & nine pounds xij schyllynggs vij pens.

thys folowewyng be the fyes & pe'cyons that oure howse ys yerely chargyd wt all

Vn to my lord dawbeny cheffe steward xlsē.

Vn to my lord fyzwarryng xlsē.

Vn to Mast' secretory liijsē iiijd.

Vn to Mr. thomas clarke xlsē.

Vn to s' John horsey xlsē.

Vn to Mr. phylyppes of poule xxvjsē viijd.

Vn to Mr. sop' of tanton audyter xlsē.

Vn to Mr. cufte under stewarde xlsē.

Vn to John chapell of glastonbury xlsē.

Vn to catecote for the kyngs corrody lsē.

al thos ar grontyd by couent seele before rehersyd.

Vn to s' John wadham knyghte xxsē.

Vn to the schereue xlsē.

Vn to the exchet', xvjsē.

Vn to Mr. portema' xxvjs<sup>e</sup> viijd.

Vn to Mr. penny att'nay xiijs<sup>e</sup> iiijd.

Vn to oure vic' of wellys liijs<sup>e</sup> iiijd.

Vn to the vic' of long sutton xvjs<sup>e</sup> yn mony.

Vn to the vic' of leng yn mony by the yere xxxiijs<sup>e</sup> iiijd.

Vn to ambrose a syngyng ma' hathe by couent seale yerely—  
liijs<sup>e</sup> iiijd. beyng at lyberte from the howse & chargyd  
wt no s'uyse.

Sum<sup>a</sup> xxxiiij li. ijs<sup>e</sup>.

MS. Harl. 604, ff. 63, 63b, 64, 64b, al. 69, 69b, 70, 70b.

On the 6th of August, 1538, Robert Hamlyn, abbat, and convent granted to John [Tregonwell], Doctor of Laws, for good counsel already given and thereafter so to be, an annuity for life of 40s., issuing from their manor of Long-Sutton, to be paid at Michaelmas. If the money remained unpaid a month after that date, the grantee might enter and distrain. Here we have another instance of shameless exaction of which this John Tregonwell was notoriously guilty. It was allowed, however, by the Court of Augmentation, with arrears from the Dissolution, on the 11th of October, 1539.<sup>170</sup>

On the 20th of the same month of August, Robert Hamlyn, abbat, and convent granted to Richard Mahowe, the younger, and Philip Mahowe, son of Richard Mahowe the elder, of Tavystoke, in the county of Devon, the office of Superior and Receiver General of all and singular their demesnes, manors, lands and tenements with their appurtenances in the counties of Somerset and Dorset, with full power and authority according to the custom of the manor. Also an annuity of £5 of lawful money issuing from their manor at Lenge, during the lifetime of the survivor to be paid in equal portions at Michaelmas and Lady-day. Non-payment for the space of one month after these dates empowered the grantees to enter and distrain. This was allowed, with arrears, by the Court of Augmentation, on the 24th of January, 1541-2.<sup>171</sup>

(170). Decrees, vol. vi, f. 199. MS. Harl. 701, f. 104b.

(171). Decrees, vol. xi, f. 7b.

On the 20th of September, 1538, Robert Hamlyn, abbat and convent, granted to Edmund Wyncore, for good service past and future, an annuity for life of 20s., issuing from their manor of Lenge, to be paid at Michaelmas. After non-payment for a quarter of a year the said Edmund might enter and distrain. Allowed, with arrears, by the Court of Augmentation, on the 4th of February, 1540-1.<sup>172</sup>

On the 10th of October following they granted to Alexander Popham, for good counsel past and future, an annuity for life of 26s. 8d. payable at Michaelmas: non-payment for two months was to empower the said Alexander to enter and distrain in their manor of Leng. Allowed, with arrears, by the Court of Augmentation, on the 7th of November, 1539.<sup>173</sup>

On the 28th of the same month they gave to Edward Weston, for continuous good and faithful service, an annuity for life of four marcs, issuing from their manor of Lenge, payable at the four terms of the year in equal portions. On failure of payment the said Edward was at liberty to enter and distrain. They gave him seisin by payment of one silver penny. Allowed, with arrears, by the Court of Augmentation, on the 8th of June, 1540.<sup>174</sup>

On the 1st November, 1538, they gave to William More, for good service, an annuity for life of 20s., issuing<sup>175</sup> from their manor of Lenge, and payable at Michaelmas. On failure of payment, either in whole or in part, for a quarter of a year, the said William might enter and distrain. Allowed by the Court of Augmentation, with arrears, on the 20th of October, 1541.<sup>176</sup>

Three days afterwards, the 4th of November, 1538, they gave to John Montague, gentleman, and Richard Awstyn, vicar of Northecory, the next presentation to the vicarage of the parish

(172). Decrees, vol. vii, f. 27b.

(173). Decrees, vol. vi, f. 207.

(174). Decrees, vol. v, f. 221b.

(175). From "from their manor" to "20th of October, 1541," is scored through with pencil.

(176). Decrees, vol. iii, f. 49.

church of Lenge, whensoever by death, resignation, cession, deprivation, exchange, or in any other way it should next be vacant, for one turn only. This was allowed by the Court of Augmentation, on the 2nd of July, 1539.<sup>177</sup>

This was the last act that I can discover as done by the inmates of the abbey previous to the final outrage to which they were subjected. On the 8th of February, 1538-9,<sup>178</sup> they met in their chapter-house and surrendered their monastery into the hands of their imperial persecutor. The names of such of the brethren who signed the instrument appear in one column on the left margin, and were : Robert [Hamlyn] abbat, Richard Wells, prior, John Athelwyne, Henry Ambros, Robert Edgar, sub-prior, John Laurens and Thomas Genynges.<sup>179</sup> These, as it will be perceived, are less by six in number than those who signed the declaration of supremacy between four and five years before. "Here I must observe," says Stevens, "that this could not be so inconsiderable an abbey as to contain only so small a number of monks, wherefore it is reasonable to believe that a much greater number, abhorring so base an act as to consent to the destruction of their monastery and to accept the reward of their wickedness, were turned out to starve and perhaps worse used."<sup>180</sup> The pension awarded to the abbat was fifty pounds a year.<sup>181</sup> Stevens's supposition certainly appears borne out by the fact that the sole pensionaries which appear in the list in Cardinal Pole's Pension Book, 1556, are Robert Hamlyn li; Robert Edgar cs; Henry Poyninges cs; and Thomas Genynges liijs. iiijd.

To the instrument of surrender is appended a very perfect impression of the magnificent seal. It represents under three

(177). Decrees, vol. x, f. 245.

(178). MS. Lansd. 97, f. 3.

(179). Autograph in Off. Rec.

(180). *Stevens's* Abridgement, vol. i, p. 414.

[The real cause of the small number of monks was evidently the extreme poverty of the house and the amount of its debts.—Ed.]

(181). MS. Harl. 6974, f. 356.



canopies, in divided compartments, our Saviour between S. Peter and S. Paul, at full length and in erect attitudes. Our Saviour bears on his left arm a mound or plot, surmounted by a staff with a cross. The two apostles are represented with their customary insignia, S. Peter with his keys, S. Paul with his sword. Shields of arms occupy the right and left sides of the saints. The legend reads—SIGILLUM COMMUNE ABBATIS ET CON . . . . . MONASTERII DE ATHELNEY.

The property was again valued in preparation for its disposal, and in the Minister's accounts for the year 1539 we have an exact return of the state and value of every portion. The several charges on the estates appear to have been paid, as there are orders among the decrees of the Court of Augmentation for the liquidation of the claims of the Dean and Chapter of Wells for an annual rent of 28*s.* 8*d.*, issuing from the lands, etc., called Saltmore;<sup>182</sup> and of the Archdeacon of Taunton for an annual payment of 8*s.* 8*d.*, for synodals out of the church of West leng.<sup>183</sup>

We will now see what was done with the spoil.

On the 7th January, 1543-4, the king granted to John Leigh, esquire, in exchange for lands in Surrey, Kent, and Derby, and £326 2*s.* 6*d.* of lawful money, the manor of Linge, in the county of Somerset, with all its rights, members, and appurtenances, formerly belonging to the Abbey of Athelney. Also the capital messuage, with appurtenances, called The Corte, in the parish of Linge, in the tenure or occupation of John Curle, and the tithes of corn and grass arising therefrom. Also a wood or coppice, called Connyngath Coppes, containing by estimation six acres, in the same parish, and the wood called Walbarough Wood, of seven acres, also in the same parish, and each of them formerly belonging to the said Abbey of Athelney. Together with this was the manor of Esse (Ash), formerly be-

(182). Decrees, vol. iv, f. 96.

(183). Decrees, vol. x, f. 354.

longing to the Priory of Taunton, with the rectory and church of the same, and Esse Woode, containing eighteen acres, also formerly belonging to the Priory of Taunton. Besides this there were lands in Somerset, belonging to the Priory of Wytham, and of St. John the Baptist of Briggewayter, the manor of Wyllyton, belonging to the Priory of St. John of Jerusalem; and in Dorsetshire, belonging to the Abbeyes of Abbottesbury, Shirborne, and Cerne. The property belonging to Athelney was valued at £92 13s. 6½*d.*, not deducting tithe; and that belonging to Taunton at £23 6s. 5*d.*, not deducting tithe. It was to be held in chief of the king, at an annual rent for Linge of £9 5s. 4½*d.*, and for Esse of 46s. 7½*d.*, to be paid at Michaelmas. The grant was dated at Westminster, the day and year above mentioned.<sup>184</sup>

On the 17th of August, 1544, the king granted to John Clayton, or Clutton, gentleman, for the sum of £182 15*s.*, the site, sept, circuit, boundary, and precinct of the late Monastery of Athelney, with all its rights and appurtenances whatsoever, then or lately in the tenure or occupation of Sir John Tuchett, Lord Audley, and all and singular the houses, buildings, gardens, orchards, stables, dovecots, vineries, waters, etc., belonging thereunto. Also all and singular the lands, tenements, meadows, etc., in the parish of Ling, Seynt Michellborowe, and elsewhere in the county of Somerset, known or called by the name or names of The Island, Mille Meade, Longe Meade, Under the Orchard, Litell Meade, Langmeade, Clyvesmeade, and Brandesmeade, and two meadows, with appurtenances, in the eastern part of The Dreve, and one meadow called Brodemeade and one close by Brodemeade, two pastures in the north part of the Dreve, called Hyculer, one close in the western part of Hyculer, and one close of meadow in the western part of The Dreve aforesaid, two closes of pasture called Cosyners Lease, one close of meadow called Pypesmore, and two Willowebers, with their appurtenances. Also the other lands called The Demesne

(184). Orig., 35 Hen. VIII, p. 3, rot. 98.

Landes of the said monastery. All these were to be held as clearly, entirely, and amply as the late abbat had held them. They were estimated at the annual value of £10 2s. 6d., without deducting tithe, and were to be held in chief by the service of the fortieth part of a knight's fee, and a yearly rent of 20s. 3d. of lawful money, to be paid at Michaelmas. The grant was to take effect from the Feast of the Annunciation last past. It was dated, witness Katherine Queen of England, and general ruler of the same, at Hampton Court, the 17th of August, 1544.<sup>185</sup>

It would appear that this John Clayton obtained a licence to alienate the property to John Tynbere and his heirs in the following April.<sup>186</sup> There is some confusion in the exact dates, but it is certain that such a licence was obtained, though it would not appear to have been acted upon. The localities are identical with those mentioned in the grant just recited, with a few literal variations in the names. Thus, Cosyners Lease in the former is Clyverslease in this, and Pypesmore is Pypismore.

John Clayton was not permitted long to enjoy his perilous property. He died in the parish of St. Clement Danes outside Temple Bar, on the 2nd of November, in the same year. He had no lineal representative, and his brother David, of the city of Westminster, of the age of thirty-one years, his next heir, succeeded to the estate. In the order to the eschaetor to give him seizin, there are a few variations from the grant which conveyed the place to his predecessor. Longmeade is said to be by Clyvesmede, Brandesmeade is Braundesmead, Dreve is Dreave, Willowbers is Willowberes, and Seynt Michellborowe takes the more modern form of Seynt Michelles Borough. The value is stated at £9 2s. 3d. in all issues. The writ cost David Clayton half-a-marc, and was dated at Westminster the 16th of April, 1545.<sup>187</sup>

(185). Orig., 36 Hen. VIII, p. 3, rot. 100.

(186). Orig., 36 Hen. VIII, p. 6, rot. 60.

(187). Orig., 36 Hen. VIII, p. 1, rot. 19.

The subsequent history of the property, into which it is not my province to enter, would only too well bear out the warning addressed by the good Archbishop Whitgift to Queen Elizabeth :—" I beg posterity to take notice of what is already made visible in many families, that church land added to an ancient inheritance hath proved like a moth fretting a garment and secretly consumed both ; or, like the eagle that stole a coal from the altar, and thereby consumed both her young ones and herself that stole it."

On the 13th of October, 1544, the king granted to William Porteman, sergeant-at-law, and Alexander Popham, esquire, and their heirs, for the sum of £754 17s. 8*d.*, the manor, farm, and grange of Claveshey, with its appurtenances in the parishes of Northepetherton and Bromefelde, and the capital messuage, house, site, and capital mansion of Claveshey, formerly belonging to the abbey of Athelney. Also the wood commonly called Claveshey or Chalveshey Wood, containing by estimation ten acres, and the wood called Holesey Wood, containing by estimation five acres in Northepetherton aforesaid, and formerly belonging to the late monastery of Athelney. In addition to this were lands belonging to the Priories of Mynchin Buckland, Taunton, and St. John of Bridgwater, for an account of which the reader is referred to my histories of the two former Houses. The annual value of Claveshey was estimated at £9, and the annual rent to the king was fixed at 18*s.* The grant was dated at Westminster, and, as stated above, on the 13th of October, 1544.<sup>188</sup>

On the 3rd of March, 1544-5, the king granted to Sir William Stourton, Lord Stourton, for the sum of £1403 16*s.* 0½*d.*, the manor of Caundell Purs, with all its rights, etc., and in the county of Dorset, formerly belonging to the Abbey of Athelney, with woods called Abbottes Wod and Roughe Crofte Coppes, containing by estimation six acres, in the same manor, and formerly belonging to the same monastery. Other lands

(188). Orig., 36 Hen. VIII, p. 3, rot. 12.

belonging to various Houses in Dorsetshire accompanied the grant. The manor was valued at £8 10s. 9d. a year, and was to be held by the service of the twentieth part of one knight's fee, and a yearly rent of 17s. 1d. of lawful money, to be paid at Michaelmas. The grant was dated at Westminster, on the day and year aforesaid.<sup>189</sup>

In the following year the king granted to Robert Thornhill, of Wakeryngham, in the county of Nottingham, esquire, and to Hugh Thornhill, gentleman, his brother, for the sum of £1399 18s., certain cottages, tenements, burgages, curtilages, shops, and gardens, in the burg called Michell Burough, in the county of Somerset, in the tenure and occupation of Andrew Pery, Walter Squyer, John Barker, Thomas Barker, Thomas Clere, John Skorsse, John Mychell, John Kerell, John Templer, and John Payne, formerly the property of the abbey of Athelney. Also cottages, burgages, curtilages, gardens, or shops in the vill or burg of Lamporte, or Langporte, in the occupation of Thomas Pitney, John Maye, William Chilcote, John Templer, John Glistier, Richard Spencer, John Squyer, Alexander Philypp, and John Bourne, also formerly belonging to the Abbey of Athelney. With these were included enormous tracts in the counties of Nottingham, York, Derby, Lincoln, Stafford, Essex, Sussex, Hereford, etc. The Athelney property was estimated as worth £4 15s. 2d. a year.<sup>190</sup> The exact date is omitted from the roll, but it was in the 38th of Henry VIII.

Such was the mode in which modern atheism requited the work of long ages of faith and piety! My reader will, I fear, have had more than enough of this, and I will detain him but a few moments longer.

But before I conclude, I would add a few words respecting the various objects of archæological interest, which are recorded as having been discovered on and in the neighbourhood

(189). Orig., 36 Hen. VIII, p. 8, rot. 25.

(190). Orig., 38 Hen. VIII, p. 3, rot. 32.



of the site. "In 1674, some labourers," says Collinson, "employed by Captain Hacker, to whom the premises then belonged, to remove part of the ruins, disclosed a very ancient sepulchre of well wrought stone, containing the skull of the deceased, the osilium, and a small fragment of cloth. The inside of this receptacle was singularly contrived, the bottom being excavated or scooped out, so as to admit the several parts of the body. They afterwards discovered the foundation of the ancient church which stood on the top of the hill to the north-east, and there found bases of pillars, elegant tracery work of windows, and divers pieces of sculptured freestone, still retaining the marks of paint and gold. The labourers were said to have likewise found at the same time a large spur of gold, which they privately disposed of for their own benefit." He adds, "About eighteen years since," that is about 1773, "in digging up some other of the ancient ruins about sixty yards from the present farm house, northward, the workmen discovered a vault eight feet square and seven feet high, containing three human skulls. The stone of the arch and side walls being taken away, the cavity was filled up, covering the skulls with earth. Fourscore yards from this funereal spot stood a chapel, the ruins of which were removed about the same period." It has been suggested that this building was the oratory already mentioned under the date of the 19th June, 1462.

Alfred's Jewel was found in the year 1693, in Newton Park, at some distance northward from the abbey. It is a most interesting example of Anglo-Saxon workmanship. A rude figure of a person crowned (holding a sceptre surmounted by a flower) on one side was supposed by Dr. Hickes to represent St. Cuthbert. The other side is filled by a large flower. I hardly need add that it is one of the chief treasures of the Ashmolean Museum, to which it was given in 1718, by Thomas Palmer, esq., of Fairfield, in this county.

Other objects of interest have come under my own observa-

tion, several silver coins of Henry VIII and Elizabeth, and a pilgrim's leaden ampulla, which one of the brethren may have brought from Rheims, were submitted to my inspection several years ago, by the courtesy of Lady Slade. A few fragments of encaustic tiles, a magnificent boss of excellently carved foliage, apparently vine leaves, the points of the leaves forming a cross. Some segments of piers and set-offs of buttresses may still be seen in the farmyard and garden. . . . A few years since a very beautiful boss was in possession of the tenant, but has since been lost. It was of small size, and composed of foliage, the tops of the leaves gilt, with blue and crimson in the depressions. The designs on the tiles are invariably geometrical, or representations of leaves and flowers. No heraldic bearings or figures of animals have been reported to me. These, meagre as they are, are the sole remains of the stately structure that once occupied the spot, but which has now departed, together with the system with which it was associated.

Such is the history of Athelney Abbey. A holy hermit, as it would appear, first found a place for contemplation amid its almost inaccessible shades. Afterwards—and even this is separated from us, as I have already remarked, by the interval of just a thousand years—the scene was ennobled as the retreat of one of the best and greatest of his age and country. Within the course of these ten centuries it has witnessed most, if not all, of the phases that English society could successively present. The gratitude of a fugitive and then successful king next introduced a religious community which held it under various fortunes until the days that brought destruction alike to it and its fellows. Since then, as it would seem, it has retreated further and further into the solitude of its primæval state, and has assumed characteristics closely approaching those which were noticeable hundreds of long years ago. At present, notwithstanding the proximity of the great iron road of our own generation, it exhibits as little evidence of its former possession as it did before it was so immortalized. At the moment that I

write the golden corn is waving over it, and bending to the breeze that sweeps sharply across the surrounding plain, the river yet rolls slowly by its side, and the chime of that melodious peal which once made music far and near, is changed for the monotonous and melancholy tinkle of the distant sheep-bell, faint or full as the blast permits. Such is the scene under its most pleasant aspect. While on many a day in the year's course, when autumn harvests have been gathered, and winter rains have come, its appearance is still nearer to its original character; and its olden tenants, were they to revisit it, might point to the dreamy loneliness of its present state as an instance of the truth of the declaration that "the thing that hath been, it is that which shall be"; and that "there is nothing whereof it may be said, it is new. It hath been already of old time that was before us."

## A Photographic Survey of the County of Somerset.

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BY C. H. BOTHAMLEY, F.I.C., F.C.S., F.R.P.S.

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THE importance of photographic surveys, by which is meant the systematic collection of photographic records of all objects of archæological or historical interest within a given area, is, I believe, already widely recognised. The question of organising such a survey of the county of Somerset has been brought before this society on previous occasions. Professor Allen read a paper on the subject at the Crewkerne meeting, and reference was also made to it at Wellington. After the latter meeting I had some correspondence on the matter with Mr. Elworthy; but, although the attitude of the Council of the Society towards the proposal was described as being sympathetic, there was no distinct evidence that the sympathy was of an active type, and the matter dropped for the time.

Quite recently, however, the whole question of photographic surveys has entered on a new phase. Their importance has been officially recognised by the authorities of the British Museum, who have announced that they are willing, under certain regulations which are still to be formulated, to take charge of the results of such surveys, and store them in such manner that the public can have access to them.

Moreover, a National Photographic Record Society has been formed, under the presidency of Sir Benjamin Stone, to whose influence the decision of the Museum authorities is largely due,

and it at present includes representatives of the British Museum, the Royal Society, the Royal Photographic Society, the Society of Antiquaries, the Royal Archæological Institute, the Congress of Archæological Societies, and other scientific societies. Its object is to encourage the organisation of photographic surveys, to formulate rules and recommendations so that they may be carried out in a fairly uniform manner throughout the country, and to collect photographic prints with a view to form a National Photographic Record which will be deposited at the British Museum.

It seems clear, however, that though a national society may do much good service by laying down general principles and drawing up a model scheme, the actual work must be done by local societies or by local branches of the national society. Further, it will probably be agreed that, in addition to the national collection in London, it is in the highest degree desirable that there should be a local collection in each county, in the custody of some representative body, municipal or otherwise.

I venture to think that no associations can more appropriately take the initiative in organising the surveys of their own districts than the county archæological societies, where they exist; and if they have a local habitation, in some fairly convenient centre, they may with equal fitness be the custodians of the results. So far as Somerset is concerned, the council of this Society some time ago expressed its readiness to take charge of the results: the object of this paper is to excite interest of a somewhat more active and productive type, and to secure co-operation in the organising and carrying out of the work. Results must be obtained before they can be taken charge of.

If it is admitted, as I assume it to be, that a photographic survey of the county is desirable, it will not be denied that the sooner the work is undertaken the better. Many objects of great interest are in constant danger, or are even being



destroyed, leaving no record behind except possibly some drawing which may do credit to the imagination of the artist, but at the same time may have no value for the purposes of exact knowledge. In Somerset many of the most interesting objects in the architectural section are of a domestic type, and these are the very places that are most liable to alteration or destruction.

Taking both points as admitted, I propose to submit for consideration some suggestions of a more or less practical character, relative to the organisation of a photographic survey of this county.

In the first place it is noteworthy that in many localities, and Somerset is fortunately one of them, a large part of the actual photographing has already been done : it only remains to collect (as far as possible), classify, and catalogue the results. Professor Allen, as many members are aware, has made a considerable number of negatives of objects of interest in the county. The Rev. T. Perkins, formerly of Shaftesbury, has photographed many things in Somerset, including most, if not all, of the churches. I myself have negatives of different parts of Cleve Abbey. Village crosses, too, have to my knowledge already received considerable attention from two amateurs in the county.

The county is, I believe, exceptionally fortunate in the existence of a large number of negatives of subjects which have since disappeared. Many of Professor Allen's negatives are of this class. Archdeacon Ainslie, I understand, has a negative of the tower of St. Mary's, Taunton, before it was rebuilt, and possibly he has other subjects of equal interest. In the Society's museum there are prints from negatives of churches, old houses, and the like, many of which have since been altered or destroyed altogether. It is satisfactory to be able to say that these latter negatives are still in existence and in good keeping, and that permanent prints from them can be had, though most probably they will have to be paid for.

It will readily be understood, however, that a great deal of photographing has still to be done ; but, if it is to be useful for the purpose under consideration, it must be done in a systematic way. No doubt many active photographers who would be willing to help in the work would be the last to lay claim to any antiquarian knowledge. In order to ensure not only that the right things are photographed, but also that they are photographed in the right way, it is essential that, with the co-operation of competent antiquaries in different parts of the county, as complete a list as possible be drawn up of the places and objects in the county that are best worth photographing ; and this list must also state the special features of each place or object.

The preparation of such a list would naturally be the first thing undertaken.

The next step will be to ascertain, as far as possible, what subjects have already been done, and whether the particular photographers are willing to contribute prints to the county collection. This will involve not a little correspondence, and also labour in arranging and cataloguing. It may also involve some expenditure on the purchase of prints.

The third step will be to secure the help of as many photographers as possible, and to organise their energies, so that the work still to be done may be got through rapidly. Now in counties in which successful survey work has already been done, there have been large and active photographic societies, and the work has been systematised and carried out mainly by these societies in their corporate capacity. In Somerset, so far as I am aware, there is at present only one photographic society, that at Bath, and possibly another may come into existence before long. Probably, too, the Bristol societies would help, so far at least as the northern parts of the county are concerned. It is clear, however, that for some time to come, prosecution of the work in Somerset must be dependent on the help of sympathetic individuals, working to a large ex-

tent independently of one another, and therefore with all the more need for some central committee to prevent waste of obvious energy. It is also clear that the organisation in a county like this, where photographic societies are almost non-existent, must differ from that in counties where such societies are sufficiently powerful and numerous to carry out the work.

It is scarcely necessary to discuss technical details such as the size of the prints, the processes by which they are to be produced, and the like. Such matters can only be dealt with by a committee of experts.

I have indicated very broadly the main divisions of the work that a photographic survey of the county would involve. It seems certain that it can only be carried out successfully under the supervision of an efficient and representative committee, comprising both antiquaries and photographers. The chief point that I have to submit for the consideration of the Society is whether this committee shall be appointed and aided by the Society. Some funds would certainly be necessary, but the amount required would not be large, and it would diminish as time went on. The chief expense would be on account of printing and postages. Letters of enquiry would have to be sent out, and certain schedules, forms, and catalogues would be indispensable. The only other items would be the boxes or cases for storing the prints, and the purchase of prints where they could not be obtained as gifts.

Whether the general funds of the Society could bear a small annual charge for this purpose, or whether an appeal would have to be made for voluntary subscriptions, is a point on which I am necessarily quite unable to express an opinion. If voluntary subscriptions should be necessary, I should yet venture to hope that the Society, if it desires to promote or encourage such a survey, would be able and willing to defray the initial expenses, such as those occasioned by the preliminary letters of enquiry and the drawing up and printing of the list of places and objects. An appeal for subscriptions

could be made with much greater show of reason, and much better hope of success, if a definite plan had already been worked out, and there was reasonable probability of the work being carried through.

Should the Society think it well to afford active support of the character indicated, it would naturally follow that the local collection of prints would be placed in the hands of the Society. A duplicate set of prints would, one would hope, be contributed to the national collection at the British Museum.

If, on the other hand, the Society should consider that a Photographic Survey of the County is not particularly desirable, or that it does not properly come within the scope of the Society, it would follow that the work, if undertaken at all, would have to be undertaken by an independent committee or association. This would be a conclusion and a result which I for one should greatly deplore, for the work could not be thoroughly carried out without the aid of the special knowledge which members of this Society possess, and it would gain much by the direction and control which the Society is specially fitted to supply. I venture to urge, therefore, that the subject is one which the Society might very appropriately take up; and I trust that a committee may be appointed as soon as possible, so that though Somerset cannot now be the first county to take up the matter, it may yet be one of the foremost counties in initiating and completing a work which, in the minds of many, is of considerably more than local importance and interest.

## An Inventory of Church Plate in South-East Somerset.

BY REV. E. H. BATES, M.A.

IN the following pages an effort has been made to do for a part of the county what the Society tried to do for the whole some fourteen years ago. A printed form was then sent to every parish to be filled up with an account of the plate, marks, inscriptions, etc., in the hope that by means of these returns a tabulated statement might be drawn up. But a certain though small amount of technical knowledge was required, and for lack of it the returns are useless. This is said in no disparagement of the careful efforts made by the clergy to fill up the form, supplemented in many cases by drawings and rubbings. But the conclusion is that no inventory worth the making can be drawn up unless the inquirer has a copy of Mr. W. J. Cripps' *Old English Plate*.\* The price of this work (there is no other on the subject) has hitherto been a drawback, but now the Tables of Makers' Marks and Date-letters can be purchased for five shillings.

The part of Somerset now inventoried is included in the Rural-deaneries of Castle Cary and Merston, containing ninety-six parishes and chapelries, ancient and modern. Next year, with the help of the Rev. D. L. Hayward, of Pitney Lorty, I hope to search the Deanery of Ilchester, and, if possible, that of Frome; between them they contain ninety-eight parishes.

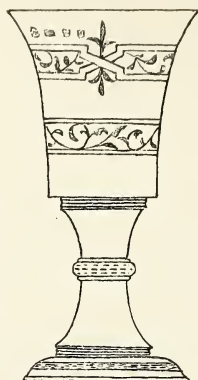
\* 5th edit., 1894; 21s., Murray.



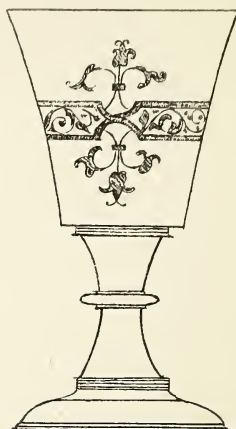




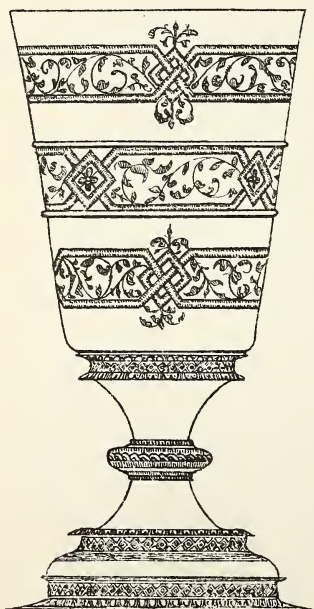
SOUTH BARROW,  
1576.



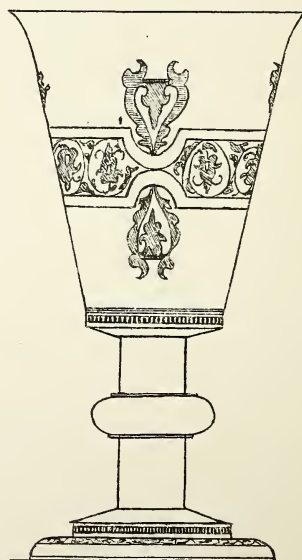
CUCKLINGTON,  
1572.



WESTON BAMPFYLDE,  
1573.



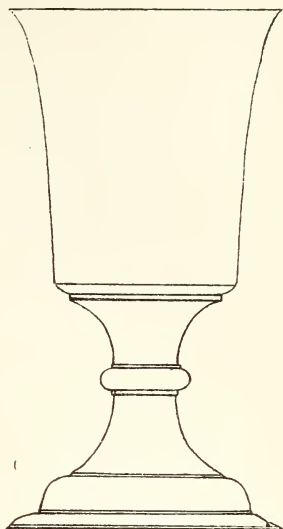
WELLS CATHEDRAL (No. 1),  
1573.



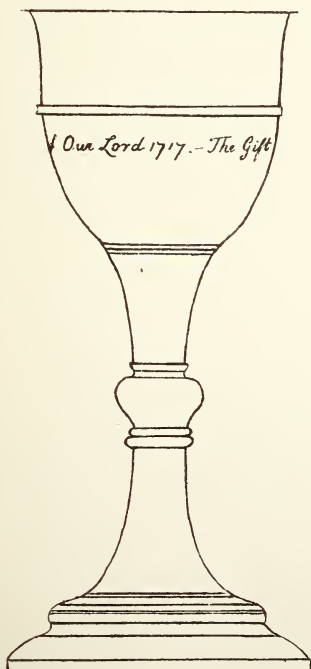
HENSTRIDGE,  
1574.



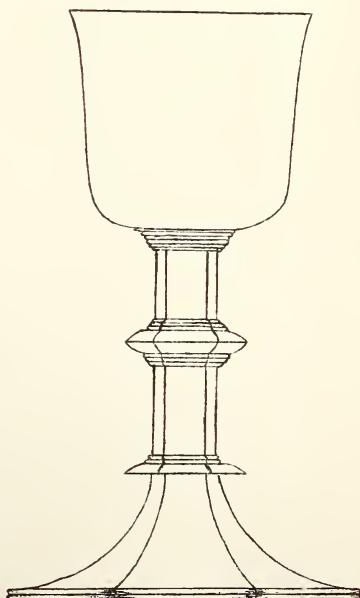
RIMPLETON,  
1637.



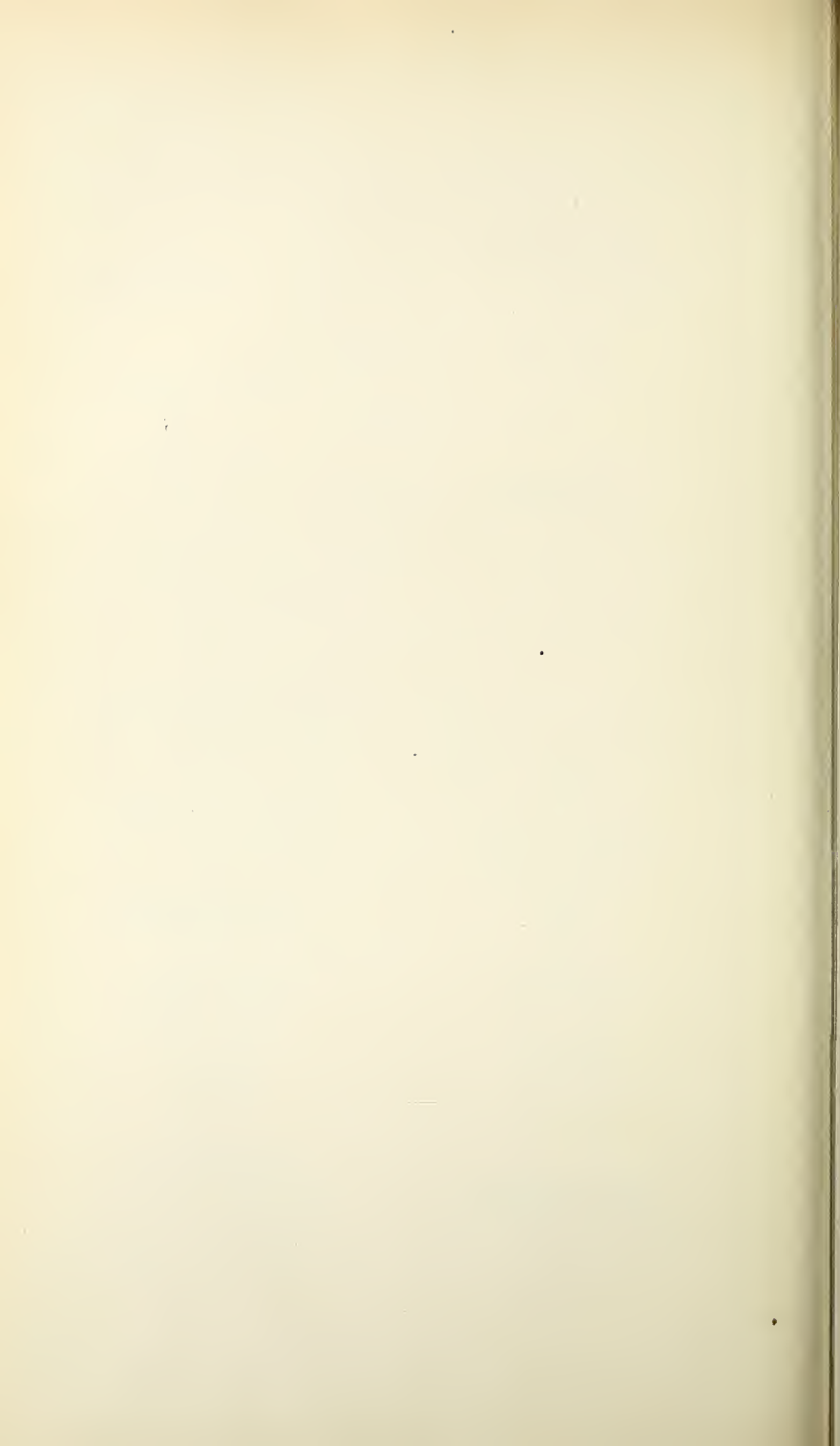
DITCHHEAT,  
1635.



MILTON CLEVEDON,  
1717.



REDLYNCH,  
C. 1670.



From that point the work must be carried on by others. I suggest that one or more workers should take up Axbridge, Glastonbury, and Paulet deaneries, which contain seventy-eight parishes, and thus complete the archdeaconry of Wells. Then, in another year, the archdeaconry of Bath (103 parishes) might be printed. The archdeaconry of Taunton contains four large deaneries, and would be taken in two portions. In the Dunster district the Rev. F. Hancock, of Selworthy, has undertaken to collect returns.

The different accounts should be drawn up in the same way as the present inventory, on the ground that they follow the lines of Nightingale's *Church Plate of Wilts*, which Mr. Cripps pronounces to be the model of what such a treatise should be.

This scheme, though imaginary, is not, I trust, visionary, and I can assure future workers in the field that if they meet with the same ready assistance and hospitality which were granted to me, which I hereby gratefully acknowledge, they will not only be doing a good work, but also storing up many pleasant memories. I must especially mention the Rev. W. E. Daniel, who, while rural dean of Shepton Mallet, took the uninteresting task of noting the plate of the modern parishes in his district; and the Rev. F. W. Weaver, who has helped me over several genealogical stiles connected with the heraldry found on the plate.

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In south-east Somerset, the mediæval period is represented by a solitary paten at Pilton, date about 1490, and three coffin chalices of base metal found at different times in the cathedral. As some sort of compensation, the amount of plate of the Elizabethan period is large; out of the eighty-six ancient parishes, thirty-five still possessing plate of the sixteenth century. The change from chalice and paten to cup and cover was begun in this diocese in 1572, though no official record on the subject can be found (*see WELLS, Cathedral*). A few parishes, Batcombe leading the way in 1567, had changed earlier. The chronolo-



gical list shows how rapidly the change was carried out ; as after 1574 there is only a dropping list of names, closing with the belated parish of Charlton Horethorne in 1603. A certain silversmith, whose initials were I.P., got the order for the cathedral plate, and for a large number of other places ; indeed it would almost seem as if he had been appointed diocesan silversmith, as his handiwork is found in thirteen out of thirty-five parishes. His cups, even down to the smallest, have two bands of running ornament round the bowl.

Besides other London marks, there are three of provincial or rather local workmen. (There are no pieces with the Taunton or old Exeter mark.) The cup at Weston Bampfylde bears the mark of Laurence Stratford, of Dorchester, and this is, I believe, the first instance of the mark being found outside his native county. The cups at Stowell (a strange pattern), Keinton Mandeville, and South Barrow bear an unidentified mark of a five-pointed star. Six parishes in the southern part of the district bear a single mark,—a circle filled with pellets so as to bear some sort of a resemblance to a guelder rose. In one instance the circle is found with a short stem, turning it into a handscreen. This is on the cup at Charlton Horethorne (1603),\* and on the same cup, in another punch, are the initials R.O. It had occurred to me that the owner of the mark might be found at Sherborne, as the mark is always in the neighbourhood, but the difficulty had been to prove it. Now it was easy. Mr. W. B. Wildman, of Sherborne, extracted the following references in the churchwardens' accounts : "1585, Richard Orenge was junior churchwarden ; the year following he was senior churchwarden. 1594-5, Mr. Orendge exchanged half-a-crown of gold that the churchwarden received and charged him fourpence for so doing." Mr. E. A. Fry, editor of *Dorset Records*, clenched the matter by finding his will, which is abstracted thus : "Will of Richard Orenge of Sher-

\* The others are—Lamyat, 1572 ; Corton Denham, 1573 ; Alford, Blackford, Henstridge, 1574 ; North Wootton, Dorset, 1582.

borne, Dorset, goldsmith, 10 May, 1605. Mr. Skarlett, minister of Sherborne, 20*sh.*; poor of S., 10*sh.*; 4 poor men of S. who shall carry my corps to the grave, 5*d.* a piece; men of the Allmosehouse in ye town of S., 4*d.* apiece; to Thos. Norman of Wynub<sup>m</sup> (?)<sup>\*</sup> the house which I bought of Mr. Rydcoull commonly called the Gatehouse in Sherborne in Cheape Street having on the north side the house of me the said Richard Orenge and on the south side the house of Robt. Cholmill now in the tenure of John Cholmill; the lease of my house at the Green wherein now West and Doune do dwell to Ann Pither dau. of my sister Ann Pither; to Walter Norman son of Thos. N. my best gilt salt and my great gilt covered cup; to Walter, Edith, Amy, Mary, Elizabeth, and Martha Norman 20 nobles each; to my sister Ann Pither £4; and to Anne her dau. £5 at marriage; to Edmond Pither 20*sh.*; to Christabell 30*sh.*; to Jane Pither 40*sh.* My son-in-law Thomas Norman to be executor. Mr. Thos. Swetnam and Mr. Laurence Swetnam to be overseers. (The two latter are also witnesses.) Proved 24 Nov. 1606." It gave me the more pleasure to trace out the owner of this mark as it had hitherto been believed, on the authority of somebody in London, to be the Nuremburg town-mark; but now, though the craftsman must be conceded to Dorset, we have the satisfaction of knowing that the cups were not "made in Germany."

The seventeenth century was well on its way before we find any fresh plate to examine, but from 1622 to 1640 a good many cups and covers are found with an occasional flagon. The broad paten on foot in addition to the cover of the cup is first found in 1630, and was no doubt invented from necessity. In this period there is much more variety in the pattern of the cups, as distinct from mere difference in size, and engraved ornamentation dies away. The domestic plate of the period is magnificently represented by the standing cups at Horsington and Yarlinton, and by an elaborate saucer at Charlton Musgrove.

<sup>\*</sup> [? Wynn<sup>b<sup>m</sup></sup> i.e. *Wimborne*—ED.]

The civil war spared the parish plate chest, and the additions in the later part of the century are generally gifts and legacies of patens and flagons. By 1700 the shape of the cup had become simply ugly, a change not at all compensated for by the increasing weight and size. A chalice at Redlynch, c. 1670, fashioned after the mediæval pattern, is perhaps due to the influence which tried to revive Gothic architecture at Low Ham in 1669.

Of less usual pieces of the eighteenth century, a pair of candlesticks at Bruton, a jug-shaped flagon at Lamyat bearing an interesting dedicatory inscription, and a silver bason at Shepton Mallet are the most noticeable; salvers also are frequently found. At present, the cups are if possible uglier than before; but since the middle of the century the mania for destroying or restoring churches (the difference between them being as subtle as ancient Pistoll's between stealing and conveying) has extended to the church plate, and Elizabethan and Jacobean cups are restored into 'Nettlecombe' chalices, before their absence is noticed. Would that the motto of the Forsters of Northumberland were held by all guardians of antiquities:

‘That which our fathers old  
Have left us to possess,  
Let us now hold  
In all worthiness.’

*Chronological List of Church Plate in South-east Somerset, to  
the end of the 18th century.*

MEDIÆVAL PLATE.

Three coffin chalices at Wells Cathedral. | c. 1490 Pilton, Paten.

CHURCH PLATE, 16TH CENTURY, AFTER THE REFORMATION.

1567 Batcombe, cup and cover. 1570 Holton, cover. Pilton, cup and cover. 1571 Ashington, cup and cover. 1572 Cucklington, cup. Lamyat, cup and cover.	1573 Ansford, cup (1). Brewham, cup. Charlton Musgrove, cover. Corton Denham, cup and cover. Doulting, cup and cover. Downhead, cup and cover.
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CHURCH PLATE, 16TH CENTURY, AFTER THE REFORMATION.—*continued.*

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| <p>1573 Holton, cup.<br/> Maperton, cup and cover.<br/> Marston Magna, cup.<br/> North Barrow, cup and cover.<br/> Shepton Montague, cup and cover.<br/> Wells, <i>Cathedral</i>, two cups and covers, flagon.<br/> Wells, <i>St. Cuthbert's</i>, cup and cover.<br/> West Bradley, cup and cover.<br/> Weston Bampfylde, cup and cover.<br/> Wheathill, cup and cover.</p> | <p>1573 Wyke Champflower, cup.<br/> Yarlington, cup and cover.<br/> 1574 Alford, cup and cover.<br/> Ansford, cup (2).<br/> Blackford, cup and cover.<br/> Chilton Cantelo, cup and cover.<br/> Henstridge, cup and cover.<br/> Preston Plucknett, cup and cover.<br/> Stowell, cup and cover.<br/> 1575 Keinton Mandeville, cup and cover.<br/> 1576 East Cranmore, cup.<br/> South Barrow, cup and cover.<br/> 1577 Chesterblade, cup and cover.</p> |
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SEVENTEENTH CENTURY.

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| <p>1603 Charlton Horethorne, cup and cover.<br/> 1611 Yarlington, standing cup.<br/> 1614 Horsington, standing cup.<br/> 1618 East Cranmore, flagon.<br/> 1622 Batcombe, cup.<br/> 1623 North Cleriton, cup and cover.<br/> Wyke Champflower, cover.<br/> 1628 Barwick, cup.<br/> East Coker, cup and cover.<br/> Templecombe, cup and cover.<br/> 1630 Wells, <i>St. Cuthbert's</i>, paten.<br/> 1631 North Cadbury, cup and cover.<br/> West Coker, cup and cover.<br/> 1633 Barton St. David, paten.<br/> Charlton Musgrove, saucer.<br/> East Pennard, cup and cover.<br/> 1634 Charlton Horethorne, paten.<br/> Poyntington, cup.<br/> Shepton Mallet, two cups and covers.<br/> 1635 Ditcheat, cup, flagon.</p> | <p>1636 Batcombe, cover.<br/> 1637 Hornblotton, cup and cover.<br/> Rimpton, cup and cover.<br/> 1638 Wells, <i>St. Cuthbert's</i>, two flagons.<br/> 1640 Barwick, paten.<br/> Castle Cary, cup.<br/> 1642 Goathill, cup.<br/> 1647 Upton Noble, cup.<br/> 1659 Poyntington, paten.<br/> 1664 Batcombe, flagon.<br/> Poyntington, flagon.<br/> 1667 Wells, <i>Cathedral</i>, two patens, flagon.<br/> Corton Denham, paten.<br/> 1675 Wells, <i>Cathedral</i>, alms dish.<br/> 1679 Croscombe, dish.<br/> 1684 Pilton, cup.<br/> 1685 Closworth, cup.<br/> 1688 Milborne Port, paten.<br/> 1695 Wincanton, cup and cover.<br/> 1697 Compton Pauncefoot, paten.<br/> 1698 Henstridge, paten.</p> |
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EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

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| <p>1703 Stoke, <i>St. Michael</i>, cup and cover.<br/> 1704 Yeovil, <i>St. John's</i>, flagon.<br/> 1705 Wells, <i>St. Cuthbert's</i>, cup and cover.<br/> 1706 Bruton, service of plate.<br/> 1709 Barwick, flagon.<br/> 1712 Wincanton, dish.<br/> 1713 Croscombe, paten.<br/> 1714 Barwick, paten.<br/> 1717 Ashington, paten.<br/> Milton Clevedon, service of plate.<br/> 1717 Trent, flagon.<br/> Wells, <i>St. Cuthbert's</i>, paten.<br/> 1718 Evercreech, flagon.<br/> Mudford, paten.<br/> Stoke Trister, paten.</p> | <p>1722 Dinder, paten.<br/> East Coker, cup and cover.<br/> Sandford Orcas, paten.<br/> West Lydford, flagon.<br/> 1723 Horsington, paten.<br/> 1725 East Lydford, paten.<br/> 1725 Lamyat, flagon.<br/> Shepton Mallet, paten.<br/> Templecombe, salver.<br/> 1726 Brewham, paten.<br/> 1727 Ashington, paten.<br/> East Pennard, cup and cover, flagon.<br/> Sandford Orcas, flagon.<br/> 1728 Compton Pauncefoot, cup and cover.</p> |
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EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.—*continued.*

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| 1728 Preston Plucknett, cup and cover.   | 1749 East Cranmore, salver.                  |
| 1729 Wincanton, dish.                    | 1750 N. Wotton, cup and cover.               |
| 1730 Babcary, cup and cover.             | 1754 Cucklington, salver, flagon.            |
| 1731 Dinder, cup and cover.              | 1756 Barton S. David, cup.                   |
| Doulting, paten.                         | 1757 Redlynch, alms dish.                    |
| Rimpton, paten.                          | 1758 Mudford, cup and cover.                 |
| 1732 Ditchheat, paten.                   | 1759 Batcombe, Plate.                        |
| 1733 Milborne Port, flagon.              | Wells, <i>St. Cuthbert's</i> , two salvers.  |
| Shepton Mallet, flagon, bason.           | 1767 Cucklington, salver.                    |
| 1734 Horsington, cup.                    | 1774 S. Cadbury, cup and paten.              |
| 1736 Sparkford, cup and paten.           | Stoke Trister, cup.                          |
| 1737 Pylle, service of plate.            | 1776 E. Lydford, cup.                        |
| Trent, cup and cover, plate.             | 1777 Downhead, paten.                        |
| 1739 Lamyat, dish.                       | 1783 Castle Cary, flagon.                    |
| 1741 Yarlington, saucer                  | W. Lydford, paten.                           |
| 1742 North Cadbury, cup and cover, dish. | 1786 Pilton, flagon.                         |
| 1744 Bruton, flagon, dish, candlesticks. | 1788 Castle Cary, paten                      |
| Everereech, dish.                        | 1793 Wells, <i>Cathedral</i> , candlesticks. |
|  | 1796 E Lydford, cup.                         |
|  | 1798 Wells, <i>Cathedral</i> , mace.         |

## ARMORIALS.

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| Ashe, Batcombe.                         | Martin, E. Pennard.                        |
| Barkham, <i>St. Cuthbert's</i> , Wells. | Mattock, <i>St. Cuthbert's</i> , Wells.    |
| Bayly, (?) E. Pennard.                  | Phelips, Charlton Musgrove.                |
| Bourchier, Henstridge.                  | Pitman, N. Cadbury.                        |
| Churchey, Henstridge.                   | Prouse, <i>St. Cuthbert's</i> , Wells.     |
| Dayes, Wyke Champflower.                | Rilleston, Charlton Musgrove, Wincanton.   |
| Digby, Kilmington.                      | S. Barbe, Ashington (crest).               |
| Farewell, Charlton Musgrove, Wincanton. | Salmon, (?) <i>St. Cuthbert's</i> , Wells. |
| Fox, Redlynch (crest).                  | Southworth, Wyke Champflower.              |
| Fox, Templecombe.                       | Strode, W. Cranmore (crest).               |
| Gapper, Wincanton.                      | Symes, Barwick (crest).                    |
| Helyar, E. Coker.                       | Temple, Lamyat.                            |
| Jenkyns, Hornblotton.                   | Thring, Hornblotton.                       |
| Leofric Earl of Mercia, Lamyat.         | Weston, E. Coker.                          |
| Littleton, Lamyat.                      | Non-identified.                            |
| Malet, Poyntington.                     | At Wincanton, one shield.                  |

## CASTLE CARY DISTRICT.

THIS district contains twenty-four parishes ; of which eleven retain the Elizabethan plate, though in two of them the cup alone has been preserved. The standing cup at Yarlington is the finest piece of plate, ecclesiastical or domestic, in the district.

ALFORD.—The Elizabethan cup and cover is by the Sherborne silversmith, Richard Orenge (*see* Introduction). The cup is 7in. high ; the bowl has one band of ornament ; the stem and



foot of the cup have been renovated. On the button of the paten is the date, 1574. The only mark is that of the maker. A small flagon and paten, with the date letter for 1824; both pieces are inscribed: 'The gift of Mrs. Elizabeth Thring, for the use of Alford church, 25th December, 1824.' Elizabeth, youngest daughter of Will. Everett, Esq., of Heytesbury, married John Thring, Esq., of Alford, and died 12th December, 1834. A small salver, centre gilt; date letter for 1869.

ANSFORD.—This parish has somehow got possession of two Elizabethan cups, unfortunately minus their covers. The earlier one was made by I.P. It is 5½in. high; there are two bands of ornament round the bowl, a band of intermittent lines round knop, and a band of running ornament round foot. Marks: 2 offic.; letter for 1573; I.P.—The second cup is a very handsome specimen. The bowl is unusually tall and slender in shape, with one band of elaborate ornament, the enclosing fillets being hatched with ziz-zag lines. This belt, with the knop, top of stem, and base of foot are gilt. The cup stands 7½in. high. Marks: 2 offic.; letter for 1574; maker's mark, H.S. in monogram—Henry Sutton probably. A plain paten on foot, 10½in. in diameter. Only mark, initials G.F., in oblong punch, struck twice. This mark is also found in the adjoining parish of Bruton, on a cup, dated 1706. Pewter: a small salver, and a bason.

BABCARY.—A cup of the usual Georgian pattern. The bowl, with slight lip, stands on a tubular stem, with rudimentary knop, the foot circular, plain. Height of cup 6¾ in. Marks: 2 offic.; letter for 1730; maker's mark, T.M., in fanciful shield—Thomas Mason. The paten also serves as a cover to the cup, and is therefore much smaller than is usual at this date. Same marks as on cup. Another paten on foot of very rude construction. It consists of a round piece of silver plate, 4¾ in. in diameter, slightly concave, with two circles engraved round the edge. To this has been soldered a trumpet-shaped stem, with flat feet, the outer edge of which has in the

course of time been bent upwards. There are no marks. Clossworth and Wheathill also possess patens of rude workmanship. Pewter bowl in the church.

**BARTON ST. DAVID.**—Another cup of Georgian pattern. It stands  $8\frac{1}{4}$  in. high ; with a U shaped bowl, slender stem, and flat foot. Marks : 2 offic. ; letter for 1756 ; maker's mark almost obliterated. A paten on foot, 7 in. in diameter. Marks : 2 offic. ; letter for 1633 ; maker's mark I.M., with a pig passant beneath in shield, (also found on a paten of 1630, at S. Cuthbert's, Wells). A pewter plate,  $9\frac{1}{2}$  in. in diameter.

**BLACKFORD.**—The Elizabethan cup and cover are by Richard Orenge, the Sherborne silversmith (*see* Introduction). The cup is  $7\frac{3}{8}$  in. high, with one band of ornament round bowl ; bands of upright strokes above and below stem ; the foot is plain. So is the cover ; on the button the date 1574. The only mark is that of the maker. A modern flagon of ancient tankard pattern, letter for 1872. A silver-plated paten.

**CASTLE CARY.**—The cup is of the baluster-stem type, of which other examples are found at Poyntington and Upton Noble. It stands  $6\frac{3}{4}$  in. high, with a square-shaped bowl, resting on the baluster-stem and plain foot. Marks : 2 offic. ; letter for 1640 ; maker's mark, I.G., with small mullet beneath in heart-shaped shield. On the bowl are dotted the initials T<sup>th</sup>.s. ; on the opposite side R.M. partially obliterated. The first set of initials probably refer to the family of Russ. A paten with moulded rim, on three feet,  $7\frac{1}{2}$  in. in diam. ; underneath '1790.' Marks : 3 offic. ; letter for 1788 ; maker's mark, H. A very large flagon, tankard pattern, engraved with sacred monogram. Marks : 2 offic. ; letter for 1783 ; maker's mark, I.R., in oblong punch—John Robins.

**COMPTON PAUNCEFOOT.**—The cup is of the ordinary Georgian pattern with cover. It stands  $8\frac{7}{8}$  in. high. Marks : 2 offic. ; letter for 1728 ; maker's mark, TT, with flower above (*see* Wincanton)—Thos. Tearle, whose mark has a crown above the rose, but this seems to have been worn away. On the cover

is this inscription : 'The gift of Mrs. Mary Player, 1729.' A large and heavy paten on foot,  $9\frac{3}{4}$  in. in diam. Marks : 2 offic. Brit. sterling ; letter for 1697 ; maker's mark, W.A., with an anchor between—Joseph Ward. Round the rim : 'The gift of Mrs. Elizabeth Hunt, daughter of Charles Roscarrooke, Esq., and wife of John Hunt, of Compton Pancefoote, in the county of Summersett, Esq. : She dyed ye 13th of January, 1697-8.' A monument in the church corroborates this inscription. A flagon, with the date-letter for 1861, inscribed : 'The gift of Jane Husey Hunt, 25th November, 1864.'

EAST LYDFORD.—A cup, of what may be called the egg-cup pattern,  $6\frac{1}{4}$  in. high, on plain stem and foot. Marks : 2 offic. : letter for 1776 ; maker's mark partly worn away, only E visible. On the bowl J.R. in monogram, the initials of John Ryall, who purchased a moiety of the manor and advowson, 1761, and died in 1781 (*Phelps*.) Another cup of same shape as the first, but the bowl is fluted and has a heavy band round lip ; the inside of the bowl is gilt. Marks : 3 offic. ; letter for 1796 ; maker's mark, W.F. in plain punch. Inscription round lip : 'Presented by George Drinkwater Bourne and Harriett Eliza, his wife, to St. Mary's church, East Lydford, April 4th, 1866.' In this year the church was rebuilt on a new site. A plain paten on foot, diam.  $5\frac{3}{4}$  in. Marks : 2 offic. ; letter for 1725 ; maker's mark, W.S., with two pellets above, and a trefoil slipped below in shaped punch—William Spackman. It is inscribed : 'Presented by Leopold Cust and Isabel, his wife, to St. Mary's church, East Lydford, 4th April, 1866.' A flagon and paten of plated metal, with initials E.L.C.

HOLTON. This little parish has preserved its Elizabethan cup and cover. The cup is of an unusual pattern, the bowl being deep and rectangular in shape, while the band of ornament runs round the lip, instead of the usual position of the middle of the bowl. There are bands of upright strokes above and below the stem ; the small knop having the egg-and-dart

ornament. Height of cup,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  in. Marks : 2 offic. ; letter for 1573 ; maker's mark, a hooded falcon. The cover, though a good fit, has a different date-letter and maker's mark. Marks : 2 offic. ; letter for 1570 ; maker's mark, a bird's head erased. A small silver paten, an offering by the parishioners, 1897.

HORNBLUTTON.—But for the absence of the distinctive ornamentation, the 17th century cup would easily pass for one of the previous century. It is  $6\frac{5}{8}$  in. high, with a deep bowl, and plain stem, with spreading foot. The cover is also very plain with shallow depression without flange. Marks : 2 offic. ; letter for 1637 ; maker's mark, P.B., with small figures above and below. On the button of the cover : WF., WH., 1634. A modern paten with sex-foiled depression, date letter for 1842, bearing on a shield : Erminois, within a bordure engr. gu., on a fess wavy or, bordered arg., three escallops of the second (Thring) ; Imp. Az. a saltire engr. or, charged with four crosses pattée fitchée points downwards sa. (Jenkyns). Crest, a cock gu. charged with an escallop on breast and wing, holding in his beak an ear of barley or. The Rev. John Gale Dalton Thring of Alford, marr. 1811, Sarah, second daughter of the Rev. John Jenkyns, vicar of Evercreech and Prebendary of Wells. A flagon, with date-letter for 1853, bearing the same arms. Pewter : a bowl with initials and date—' H.R., R.H., A.D., G.W., 1717.'

KEINTON MANDEVILLE.—The Elizabethan cup and cover are of provincial manufacture, and bear the same mark as that found at Stowell and South Barrow. The cup is of the same pattern as that at the last-named place. It stands  $5\frac{3}{4}$  in. high ; the bowl is slightly convex ; it has one band of running ornament, the enclosing fillets being hatched. Below the bowl is a band of upright strokes ; the knop and foot appear to have been renovated. The cover is quite plain. The button bears the date 1575. The only mark is an incused star with five points. A paten on foot, diam. 8in. The edges of dish and foot are decorated with egg-and-dart ornament. Marks : 3

offic. ; and date-letter for 1819. In centre, sacred monogram, within rayed circle. It is inscribed : ‘ Keinton Mandefield, Somerset.’ A plated flagon.

KINGWESTON.—When the church was rebuilt in 1852, the old plate was superseded by a chalice and paten of good mediæval design. There is also a flagon, of the tankard pattern, with the date-letter for 1812.

LOVINGTON.—Two of the marks on the cup are obliterated, and the two others are not in *Cripps* but from its shape I should imagine it to be early 18th century work. It stands  $6\frac{1}{4}$  in. high ; the bowl is plain with a projecting lip ; the stem and feet trumpet-shaped without any mouldings. Marks : (1) fleur-de-lys in shaped punch ; (2) a monogram, perhaps T.C. in shaped punch, but the lower part is worn away ; (3) and (4) quite gone. The cover is quite plain ; it bears only one mark, W.P., crown above and pellet below in shaped punch. *Cripps* under 1730, gives a mark almost identical, except that there is a small rose between the crown and the initials.

MAPERTON.—An Elizabethan cup and cover by same maker as that at Yarlinton. The cup is 6 in. high ; the bowl has one band of ornament ; at top and bottom of stem, bands of upright strokes ; belt of hyphens round knop ; and egg-and-dart ornamentation round foot. The ornament of the cover is confined to a belt of strokes. The marks are 2 offic. ; letter for 1573 ; maker’s mark, a helmet in plain shield, not in *Cripps*. This mark is also found at Yarlinton.

A chalice and paten of mediæval pattern with this inscription : ‘ Given to the church of SS. Peter and Paul, Maperton, in memory of Samuel Wildman Yates, 25 years, vicar of St. Mary’s, Reading, who died 7th May, 1862, aged 68.’ An alms dish inscribed : ‘ Presented to the parish of Maperton, by the Rev. George Eveleigh Saunders, M.A., 29th July, A.D., 1858.’ The donor was rector 1857-1891. Two pewter plates.

NORTH BARROW.—An Elizabethan cup and cover by I.P. Height of cup  $5\frac{3}{8}$  in. ; two bands of ornament round bowl ;



belt of hyphens round knop and foot. Round the cover a band of running ornament, and on the button the date 1573. Marks : 2 offic. ; letter for 1572 ; makers's mark, I.P. A small dish with raised edge, diam. 5 in. The only mark is a small oval containing the initials G.A., struck thrice ; it is also found at South Barrow ; not in *Cripps*. A pewter bowl.

NORTH CADBURY.—The earlier cup and cover are of the type often found in the early 17th century, a larger and plainer copy of the earlier type of Queen Elizabeth's reign. It is 7in. high. Marks : 2 offic. ; letter for 1631 ; maker's mark in a shield, B.F., with a trefoil betw. 2 pellets below. The bowl is inscribed : 'Nicholas Pitman, William Biggin, churchwardens, 1631.' There is another cup, with cover, which is a heavy imitation of the earlier one. The cup is likewise 7in. high. Marks : 2 offic. ; letter for 1742 ; maker's mark, black-letter, T.M., in punch ; Thomas Mann. The bowl is inscribed : ' Gualter: Pitman Eccles: 1742. Guilielm: Guardi mi: A large plain dish, diam. 9½ in. In centre, within mantling, is a shield, bearing gu., a pelican vulning herself. Crest : a man's head affrontée. Motto : 'Patria poscente paratus. Inscription round rim : 'Deo et Eccles : de N. Cadbury Honoris Amoris ergo D.D. W.P., 1742.' Marks, the same as on piece last described. A jug very rudely manufactured ; query if really silver. Only mark, a capital black-letter T, struck four times.

SOUTH BARROW.—An Elizabethan cup and cover. The cup stands 5¾ in. high ; the bowl is convex in outline and deeper than the usual type ; there is one band of running ornament, the fillets being filled in with diagonal hatching. On the button of the cover is the date 1576. The only mark is that also found at Stowell and Keinton Mandeville, a small five-pointed star. A small dish companion to the one at North Barrow, and like it, bearing the initials G.A., within small oval, as the only mark.

SOUTH CADBURY.—The cup and paten are of late 18th century pattern. The cup stands 8½ in. high ; the bowl is

plain with a wide lip ; there is a small knop on the stem. The paten is on a foot, diam.  $7\frac{1}{2}$  in. Marks (same on both pieces) : 2 offic. ; letter for 1774 ; maker's mark, in rectangular punch the black-letter initials J.D., but the second letter is rather doubtful—J. Denzilow. In churchwardens' accounts, for 1775, is this item : 'Recd. of Mr. Bailey it being a Gift towards the Communion Plate £1 1s. 0d.' There is no other reference to the purchase, nor any reason why new plate was required. A flagon of modern ecclesiastical pattern with the date-letter for 1870, inscribed : '1870, A thank-offering, I.A.B., M.B.'—James Arthur and Margaret Bennett. He was rector 1866-90. His services to the cause of archæology in the county were invaluable ; see the 'In Memoriam,' in Som. Arch. and Nat. History Society's *Proceedings*, vol. xxxvi, ii, p. 193.

SPARKFORD.—A cup and paten of Georgian period. The cup is 8 in. high ; the bowl is deep with lip ; the stem has a small knop. Marks : 2 offic. ; letter for 1736 ; maker's mark, I.K., in shaped punch with a small ornament above partly worn away. Under foot of cup, 'W.C., 1737.' The paten is simply a dish, 8 in. in diam. Marks : 2 offic. ; no date-letter ; maker's mark, I.K., as on cup, but the shape of the punch is rather different—Jeremiah King. A plated flagon inscribed : 'Sparkford Church 1867,' and a pewter bowl.

SUTTON MONTIS.—Cup and paten of Victorian era. They bear the sacred monogram within rayed circle, and inscriptions. That on cup runs thus : 'In memory of God's mercy in having preserved the Rectory of this parish in the family of his ancestors in unbroken succession from the days of Queen Elizabeth, this cup and paten are given by Robert Leach Esq., patron of Sutton Montis, 1 Aug., 1839.' On the paten : 'Robert Leach Esq., patron of Sutton Montis 1839 ; W. Burton Leach, Rector.' A plated alms dish inscribed : 'Presented to the Church of Sutton Montis by Mrs. Burrows 1850.'

WEST LYDFORD.—The cup seems to belong to the group which are also found at Goathill (in Milborne Port district,

*q.v.*), Milborne Port, and North Cheriton. The date-letters on the cups at North Cheriton and Goathill assign the group to the early part of the 17th century, while the inscribed dates would make them about seventy years later. The cup is  $6\frac{3}{8}$  in. high; the bowl has a band of running ornament roughly executed; the stem and knop seem to have been renovated; the foot is plain. Marks: no official or date-letter; a thistle head in a punch with engrailed edge, not in *Cripps*; and in a rectangular punch two letters indecipherable; this mark is given twice. The cover is plain without a flange, but it fits loosely on the cup; on the button is the date '1706'; it has the same marks as the cup. A flagon of tankard pattern of a reasonable size, standing  $7\frac{1}{2}$  in. high. Marks: 2 offic.; letter for 1722; maker's mark, T.T., under crown—Thos. Tearle. The body is inscribed: 'The gift of Robert Walker and Thomas Pope to the Parish Church of West Lidford in Somersetshire 1723.' A large paten on foot, inscribed with the sacred monogram and 'West Lydford Somerset.' Usual marks, and date-letter for 1783.

WESTON BAMPFYLDE.—The Elizabethan cup and cover bear the mark of the Dorchester silversmith, Lawrence Stratford, and are, I believe, the only examples found outside Dorset county. The cup stand  $6\frac{3}{4}$  in. high; the shape of the bowl is that of a truncated cone with the side slightly concave; there is one band of running ornament, the enclosing fillets being hatched; the knop is small; round the flat of the foot a small band of egg-and-dart ornament. The cover is quite plain; on the button is the date 1573. They each bear the same mark, the monogram L.S., with a six-rayed star on one side and a small cross on the other. For the maker see *Cripps*, p. 103, and *Som. and Dorset Notes and Queries*, iii, p. 282. A paten, wholly gilt, on foot,  $5\frac{1}{4}$  in. in diam. It is quite plain, and bears only one mark an escallop in shaped shield; this mark is given by *Cripps* under the year 1635, and the paten is probably of that period. A large pewter bowl,  $10\frac{5}{8}$  in. across,





YARLINGTON,

1611.



inscribed : 'Weston Bampfylde, John Blandford Churchwarden 1789.'

WHEATHILL.—The Elizabethan cup retained here is only  $4\frac{7}{8}$  in. high, yet the maker, I.P., has found room on the bowl for two bands of running ornament; there is no knop on the stem; a belt of hyphens runs round the foot. The cover has a band of running ornament; on the button the date 1573. Marks: 2 offic.; letter for 1573; I.P. There is also a curious piece of plate, roughly fashioned into a paten on a foot, 4 in. in diam. The edge is turned up and scalloped. The surface is ornamented with lines and beads punched up from the under-side, dividing it into four compartments with a square in the centre, and a row of beads round the circumference. There are no marks, but 'R.C. 1674,' is dotted in on the plate.

YARLINGTON.—The Elizabethan cup and cover is still preserved. The cup is of the ordinary pattern,  $5\frac{5}{8}$  in. high, with one band of ornament round bowl, the enclosing fillets being hatched. Marks: 2 offic.; letter for 1573; maker's mark (same as at Maperton), a helmet in plain shield, not in *Cripps*.

There are no marks visible on the cover, which is of the usual shape and quite plain.

There is also belonging to the church here a magnificent standing cup and cover of the same pattern as the celebrated 'Edmonds' cup. As by the kindness of the Rev. A. J. Rogers, Rector of the parish, a photograph of this cup accompanies the Inventory, a detailed description is unnecessary. An account of the ornamentation on the bowl will be found in the Castle Cary volume of the Som. Arch. and Nat. Hist. Society's *Proceedings*, xxxvi, i, p. 64, but the derivation there given, though ingenious, is not necessary to account for the peculiar style of ornament. The cup is silver-gilt,  $11\frac{1}{2}$  in. high to lip, and the cover with the open pyramid is another 7 in. Marks: 2 offic.; letter for 1611; maker's mark, A.B. in monogram.

A saucer, the edge moulded into vertical flutings. Marks:

2 offic. ; letter for 1741 ; maker's mark, F in shield for William Fawdery.

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### BRUTON DISTRICT.

THIS district contains nineteen ancient parishes and chapelries. Elizabethan plate is preserved in eight parishes ; four having cup and cover, three the cup only, and in one the cover alone remains.

BATCOMBE.—The Elizabethan cup, with cover, is several years earlier than any other post-Reformation plate in the district, being dated 1567. It is a fine specimen, parcel-gilt,  $7\frac{7}{8}$  in. high. Round bowl is a single band of running ornament ; above and below the stem are bands of diamond shaped figures ; on the spread of the foot egg-and-dart ornament. The cover is quite plain. Marks ; 2 offic. ; letter for 1567 ; maker's mark, H.W., with pellet above and below, also found at Pilton, 1570.

Another cup and cover of the early Stuart period. This is also a fine specimen,  $8\frac{1}{16}$  in. high, with elaborately moulded foot. Marks : 2 offic. : letter for 1622 ; maker's mark, T.F., in monogram. Round bowl an inscription : 'A Communion cupe for ye Perrishe of Batcombe, Giuen by James Aishe, clothier, 1622.' [*see post*]. The cover is not contemporary, quite plain with shallow depression within rim. Marks: 2 offic.; letter for 1636 ; maker's mark, doubtful, rather like the head of a mace, or perhaps a spur, not in *Cripps*.

A large flat-topped flagon of tankard pattern, holding by actual measurement five pints, spreading foot, height  $11\frac{1}{2}$  in. Marks : 2 offic. ; letter for 1664 ; maker's mark, B in shield, two stars above and one below, not in *Cripps*. On front of bowl, surrounded by mantling, is a shield bearing : two chevrons. Crest, a cockatrice. Inscription: 'Ecclesiæ de Batcombe, D: D: D. Jacobus Ashe de Westcombe Armiger An<sup>o</sup> Dom<sup>i</sup> 1645.'

James Ashe of Westcombe in Batcombe gent., by his will, dated 16th Nov., 1642, proved 6th May, 1646, gave to 'my parish church of Batcombe, £16, for a silver flagon for the Communion Table.' Brown's *Wills*, 3rd ser. p. 45. The executors seem to have held their hands until more settled times.

A plate,  $9\frac{3}{4}$  in. in diameter, in centre sacred monogram, within ornamented circle. Marks : 2 offic. ; letter for 1759 ; maker's mark partly worn away : in cursive writing M, and probably F, pellet below in plain shield—Mordecai Fox. On under side this inscription : 'Presented to Batcombe Church, Somerset, by Mrs. Elizabeth Coney, widow of the late Rev. Thomas Coney, LL.B., for upwards of 50 years rector of the parish, Easter, 1843.'

BRATTON ST. MAUR.—The only articles in use here are a cup inscribed 'Bratton Communion Service' and paten, of plated metal.

BREWHAM.—An Elizabethan cup minus its cover. The bowl is almost straight sided, with one band of ornamentation. The foot has a band of intermittent lines or hyphens. Height  $6\frac{1}{4}$  in. Marks : 2 offic. ; letter of 1573 ; maker's mark, I.P. (see Introduction). Under foot is a modern inscription : 'The Church of St. John Baptist, Brewham.'

Plain paten on foot ; ornamented with sacred monogram within rayed circle, and inscribed 'Gratitud : ergo : E. Hickman.' Under foot : 'Given to the Church of St. John Baptist, Brewham, M.B.D., 1875.' Marks : 2 offic. ; letter for 1726 ; maker's mark, initials G.S., *i.e.* Gabriel Sleath. A flagon, with Sheffield marks for 1874. Underneath this inscription : 'Given to the church of S. John Baptist, Brewham, C.C.D.' The initials on the flagon and paten are those of members of the family of Dampier, who formerly lived at Colinshayes in this parish. The Rev. John Dampier, M.A., was vicar 1828-1842. M.I. in chancel.

BRUTON.—The plate here is almost superabundant in number and weight, being the result of three donations in the 18th century.

Donation No. 1 consisted of two cups with covers, a large paten, and a flagon. The only mark is that of the maker, the initials G.F., in rectangle. This mark is also on a paten at Ansford. On the drum of the flagon within rayed circle is this inscription: 'Given by Mrs. Grace Wason, for the use of the Church in 1706.' Bruton Reg., '14th June, 1685, Mr. Thos. Wason and Mrs. Grace Sampson were married.' The cup is 8 in. high, the bowl straight-sided with unusually wide lip, in the middle of the stem a large clumsy knop, and a wide foot. The cover is quite plain with a flange round rim. The two cups are exactly alike, and the pair with the covers weigh 37 oz., 2 dwt., 1 gr. The paten is  $11\frac{1}{2}$  in. in diameter and weighs 23oz., 1 dwt., 1 gr. The flagon of hammered silver is of the tankard type with flat lid, 11 in. high; it weighs 38 oz., 2 dwt. The maker's mark is also found at Poulshot, Wilts, 1707.

Donation No. 2, provided another flagon, exactly like the earlier one, but rather heavier, weighing 41 oz., 16 dwt. Marks: 2 offic.; letter for 1744; maker's mark, initials T.W., *i.e.* Thomas Whipham; also an alms dish, quite plain,  $10\frac{1}{8}$  in. across. Marks: 2 offic.; letter for 1744; maker's mark, initials J.G. in black-letter—James Gould. Both pieces bear the inscription: 'The gift of Mr. Richd. Wood for the use of the Church in Brewton, 1744.' He was churchwarden 1702. Phelps in *Modern Somerset* gives his M.I.: 'In memory of Mr. Richard Wood, who died 15th December, 1749, aged 82 years; who gave to the use of this church one chandelier, and part of the communion plate.'

Donation No. 3, took the rather unusual form of a pair of silver candlesticks. They are very handsome in appearance, with ornamentation of cherub's heads and acanthus leaves. Height  $13\frac{1}{2}$  in. Marks: 2 offic.; letter for 1744; maker's mark, G.H., *i.e.*, George Hindmarsh. Round the base runs an inscription: 'The gift of Mr. John Gilbert, to Brewton Church, 1744.' In 1720, 28th Nov., Mr. John Gilbert mar-

ried Elizabeth Sampson, relative of donor No. 1. The Gilbert family were originally at Witcombe, in Corton Denham. Leland wrote that 'Mr. Gilbert a gentilman hathe a poore mansion house by south east of the very rootes of Camallet.' A branch seems to have settled at Bruton in the reign of Elizabeth. The will of Nicholas Gylbarte, gent. of Bruton and Wichhampton, Dorset, was proved, 2nd August, 1566. This settlement at Bruton may not be unconnected with the fact that William Gylbert was prior and abbot of that place, 1498-1533. [Introduction to *Bruton Cartulary* by Rev. F. W. Weaver, S.R.S. viii, p. xliii, seq.]

CHARLTON MUSGROVE.—The Elizabethan cup has vanished, leaving the cover behind. This is of the ordinary pattern, but very small,  $2\frac{7}{8}$  in. diameter; on the button of the foot is engraved the date, 1573. This is very lucky as the date-letter is quite obliterated and the maker's mark nearly so; it looks somewhat like a thistle head. The 2 offic. marks are visible. There are two cups of this century; the earlier one of the Norwich pattern, parcel gilt, with letter for 1819, and inscribed underneath: 'A gift to the Parish Church of Charlton Musgrove 1820'; the other bears the Sheffield marks and letter for 1868, and this inscription; 'Presented by the Rev. L. C. Davis, Rector, to the Parish Church of Charlton Musgrove, June the 30th, 1873.' He was rector of Charlton Musgrove, 1864-1876. A modern flagon of usual design, with the Sheffield marks for 1844.

The most interesting piece here is undoubtedly a small saucer of the time of Charles I. Marks: 2 offic.; letter for 1633; maker's illegible. Diam.  $5\frac{2}{5}$  in.; it has two small handles formed as escallop shells; the interior is divided by raised lines into compartments, each with a punched ornamentation. In the centre within a circle is a shield bearing: a chevron between three roses (Phelips), imp. quarterly, one and four, a saltire (Rilleston), two and three, a chevron between three escallops (Farewell). The details of this shield are quite in



order, and it is apparently some alliance of the Phelips or Wadham families; but the effort to find out the 'femme' quarterings, enables me to say that the whole shield is in reality reversed by the error of the engraver in copying direct from the seal, and not from an impression, and that the heraldry is really that of the Farewells, of Holbrooke Grange, in this parish. Phelps, under South Cadbury, gives a shield on the monument of the Rev. George Farewell, as quarterly, one and four a chevron between three escallops; two and three a saltire, imp. Dawe of Ditchat; and a plate at Wincanton (see *post*) has the same quartered shield. The arms in the first and fourth are those of Farewell, and in the second and third Rilleston of Rilleston in Yorkshire.\* Then the impaled coat is Phelips of Montacute. John Farwell of Holbrooke married 7th January, 1561-2, Ursula, daughter of Thomas Phelips, of Montacute."† He was buried at Charlton Musgrove, 12th March, 1615 [Par. Reg.]. If this piece of plate was given in his widow's lifetime, or soon after her death, Ursula must have lived to the age of 90.

There is also a small plated salver, and a pewter bowl in the church.

CHESTERBLADE.—A chapelry attached to Evercreech. It preserves its Elizabethan cup with cover, of a rather later date than is usual in this diocese. Marks (same on both pieces): 2 offic.; letter for 1577; maker's mark, H, charged with an arrow paleways, barb downwards; a mark also found in Wilts. The cup stands 7in. high; the bowl is straight-sided and deep, with two bands of ornament. The knop and feet have bands of hyphens, which are also found on the cover.

Also two plates and a flagon, plated.

CUCKLINGTON.—A small Elizabethan cup, minus its cover. Marks: 2 offic.; letter for 1572; maker's mark, I.P., in shield (*v.* Introduction). The cup stands 6 in. high; the bowl is al-

\* Communicated by G. Farwell, Esq., Q.C., of Lincoln's Inn.

† Montacute Reg.

most trumpet-shaped, widening out just below the lip; round it are two bands of running ornament. The knop and foot have bands of hyphens.

The flagon and a salver were a present. They both bear this inscription: 'To the glory of God and the use of the inhabitants, of the parish of Cucklington, at the Holy Communion, the gift of Nathl. Dalton Rector and Catherine his wife A.D. 1755.' The flagon is of the tankard type with wide spreading foot. It is exactly one foot high, and the foot is  $7\frac{1}{2}$  in. across. Marks; 2 offic.; letter for 1754; maker's mark (partly worn away), W and perhaps G, in which case the initials stand for Will. Grundy. The salver is  $8\frac{3}{4}$  in. across, with gadrooned edge. Marks: same as on flagon except the maker's which are w<sup>p</sup>s within a cross patée, *i.e.*, Will. Shaw and Will. Priest.

There is also another salver, same size as the other, but the gadrooned edge does not follow the same pattern. Marks: 2 offic.; letter for 1767; maker's mark, W.P. and J.P., divided by a cross with wavy arms, *i.e.*, Will. and James Priest. The salver is inscribed: 'To the glory of God and the use of the inhabitants, of the parish of Cucklington, at the Holy Communion, the gift of Catharine Dalton, widow of Nathl Dalton, the late Rector A.D. 1767.' Nathaniel Dalton was the only surviving son of Nathaniel Dalton and Mary, daughter and (eventually) heiress of Hugh Watts, of Shanks House, in this parish. He succeeded his father as rector in 1706, and held the living for sixty years. His widow was a daughter and coheiress of Henry Dirdoe, of Milton House, parish of Gillingham, Dorset. She survived him for five years and was buried 23rd October, 1771.

EVERCREECH.—The cup with its cover is of an unusual shape, and as there are no marks visible, it is not easy to determine its date. It stands  $7\frac{1}{8}$  in. high, and  $4\frac{1}{8}$  in. wide at lip of bowl, which is slightly concave in outline. The lower part of the bowl is covered with spiral flutings below a band of

crescent-shaped marks. The stem is nondescript, the knop very thick and clumsy, the upper part covered with spiral flutings in imitation of the bowl. The foot is flat, the sides are ornamented with straight flutings. The paten is flat, decorated like the foot of the cup; the button bears this inscription: "This bowl was Repaired in the year 1702 Mr Añb̄s Turner & Lauzus Salmon Churchwards.' In Nightingale's *Church Plate of Dorset*, there is an engraving of a cup at Swanage, which much resembles the one at Evercreech, but it is more elaborate in detail. This is dated 1692. The worst part about the Evercreech 'bowl' is the stem, and this may have been broken and roughly mended.

A very large flagon of the tankard pattern. Marks: 2 of Brit. sterling, letter for 1718, and maker's mark initials BA.—Richard Bayley. It bears this inscription: 'Mrs. Susanna Hayward wid<sup>w</sup> gave this Flaggon to Evercreech Church 1719.' The donor was the widow of John Hayward, gentleman, of Bagbury in this parish.

A small dish with gadrooned edge, on three feet; it bears the sacred monogram and an inscription: 'The gift of Mrs. Ann Wood the wife of Mr. Richard Wood of Brewton for the use of the Church of Evercreech 1744.' [For Mr. R. W. see under Brewton in this Deanery.] Marks: 2 offic; letter for 1744; maker's mark, the initials I.S. within an oval. Cripps gives a mark exactly like this except that it has a ring of pellets round the letters. This mark is also found at Shepton Mallet.

A modern chalice, paten, and almsdish, of mediæval design, bearing the inscription: 'Hanc Chalicem (Patinam, Elemosynarium) in usum fidelium in æde Sancti Petri ad pagum Evercreechiensem convententium donum dedit Carolus Gualterus A. Napier B.A. vicarius A.D. 1844.'

KILMINGTON.—The plate here is modern. A cup and paten with the letter for 1806. The cup stands  $7\frac{5}{8}$  in. high; it is a handsome piece with ornamentation of oak leaves. On

the bowl are the Digby arms, a fleur-de-lys, and the following inscription, which also appears on the paten : 'E dono Caroli Digby A.M. Rectoris Kilmington, Anno Domini 1806.' The Donor was Rector of Kilmington, 1767 to 1811.

A flagon of modern ecclesiastical design with the letter for 1864.

LAMYAT.—The plate here is interesting. An Elizabethan cup and cover, made by R. Orenge of Sherborne, and bearing his mark (*see* Introduction). The cup is  $7\frac{3}{4}$  in. high ; there is one band of the distinctive ornament round the bowl, on the lip of which is the date 1572. The cover bears the same mark, but on the button is the date 1681, which must be either the date of repair, or perhaps replacement of that part. Then there is a flagon of the less usual jug or round-bellied type. This pattern ceased to be used for ecclesiastical purposes after the Restoration, but remained in secular service much later, as the date-letter testifies. Marks : 2 offic. ; letter for 1725 ; B.N. in heart-shaped shield *i.e.* Bowles Nash. It stands  $9\frac{1}{2}$  in. high and is very heavy. It bears this inscription : 'The Revd Trethewy Tooker 1746 did upon his Death Bed Devote this Present of Sr Thomas Littleton to him to the Communion Service in the Parish Church of Lamyeat.' Coat of arms : a chevron between three escallops sa. (Littleton) imp. quarterly first and fourth an eagle displayed (Leofric, Earl of Mercia) ; second and third two bars each charged with three martlets (Temple). Supporter (on dexter side only), a merman holding a trident. These are the arms of Sir Thos. Littleton of Frankley, co. Worcester, M.P., lord of the Admiralty 1727, and of his wife Christian, daughter of Sir Richard Temple of Stowe. Their eldest son George was created Lord Lyttleton, 1757.

Trethewy Tooker, son of James Tooker of Midsomer Norton, gentleman (*Collinson* ii, p. 151), matriculated at Christ Church, Oxford, 4th April, 1691, ætat sixteen. He was Rector of Wheathill for less than a year, and became Rector of

Buckland, Gloucester, 1714. An entry in the Lamyat registers explains his occupation in the interval, and his connection with this parish: '1705 4th May—Buried Francis wife of Trethewy Tooker, minister of Pilton, and daughter of Judah Horsington of Lamyat.'

A small dish with moulded edge on three feet. Diameter  $5\frac{3}{8}$  in. Marks: 2 offic.; letter for 1739; maker's mark *J.M.*, in shaped punch—James Morison. On under-side this inscription: 'The gift of Mrs. Anne Pitney 1740.' In parish register, 'Mrs. Ann Pitney, buried 10 Nov. 1764, widow of Rev. Mr. Pitney of this parish.' They were an old yeoman family who lived in a house near the church: over the door is a stone with the initials M.A.P. (the P above the M.A.), 1718. A Matthew Pitney, son of Matthew and Frances was baptized 10 Dec. 1665, and became a member of Wadham College, 1682. He took the degree of B.A., 1687. He was never incumbent of this parish, nor is it known what cure he did hold. [Communicated by Rev. H. C. Guyon, Rector].

MILTON CLEVEDON.—The plate—cup with cover, paten and flagon—was given early in the eighteenth century; it is a striking example of the fashion of that period. The maker was Paul Lamerie, who stood at the head of the trade at that time. All the pieces are silver-gilt of Britannia sterling; they bear the 2 offic. marks, the letter for 1717, and the letters L.A. between a crown and a small cross. The cup stands  $10\frac{3}{4}$  in. high, and, with the domed cover, 13 in. The deep bowl, encircled by a projecting band or rib, stands on an elongated stem with a peculiar kind of knop halfway down. The moulded foot is 5 in. in diameter. The paten is a plain dish on foot 8 in. wide. The flagon is of the ordinary tankard pattern, with wide spreading foot,  $12\frac{3}{4}$  in. high. They all bear this inscription: 'The gift of Mrs. Strangways to ye Church of Milton ye 25th of December in ye year of our Lord 1717.' The donor was Susannah (1660-1718), daughter and heiress of John



Ridout, Esq., of Milton Clevedon, and wife of Thomas Strangways, Esq., of Melbury Park, Dorset. They had, with other children, Susannah, who married Thomas Horner, Esq., of Mells : Elizabeth, their only surviving child, became the wife of Stephen Fox, Earl of Ilchester. Mrs. Strangways, her daughter Mrs. Horner, and her husband's niece, Miss Judith Ayliffe, of Foxley, Wilts, were all customers of Paul Lamerie, who made to their orders church plate for several parishes in Wilts, Dorset, and Somerset.

PENSELWOOD.—All modern. A cup, parcel-gilt, with date letter of 1843. A paten, bearing in centre a cross standing on pile of rocks, and the sacred monogram, of same date. A glass cruet with silver mountings, 1895. A plated flagon.

PITCOMBE.—Again all modern. A cup (parcel-gilt) and paten, letter for 1857, bearing inscription : 'Church of St. Leonard's Pitcombe 1858.' A flagon, under foot inscribed : '1842 Pitcombe Parish the gift of the Right Honourable Henry Hobhouse.' For some account of the donor *see Records of Yarlinton*, p. 11. Two alms dishes of plated metal inscribed : 'For God and the Poor.' Underneath, the same inscription as on the cup, and the initials V.P.T., *i.e.*, Vernon Pearce Taylor, who was vicar of Pitcombe with Wyke Champflower, 1846-1880, when he resigned. Dying in 1890, he was buried in Pitcombe churchyard, M.I.

REDLYNCH.—A chapelry annexed to Brewham. It possesses a very interesting post-mediæval chalice with cover. This chalice stands 9 in. high. The diameter of bowl at lip is 4 in. and its depth  $3\frac{1}{2}$  in. ; it is almost straight sided. The stem is hexagonal with an angular knop in the middle ; at the base of the stem is a flange ; underneath, the sides of the stem spread out to form a foot with rounded lobes. The cover has no resemblance to a mediæval paten, but is of the ordinary type, with a foot on which is a small ball. The weight of the chalice and cover is 29 oz. 12 dwt. A large plain paten on foot, measuring  $8\frac{1}{4}$  in. across, and weighing 18 oz. 4 dwt. A flagon

of the jug or round-bellied type, which resembles the example at Lamyat in this deanery. It measures  $10\frac{1}{2}$  in. to level of lip, and  $12\frac{1}{4}$  in. to the cross on the cover. The stem is decorated with a large knop. Weight, 41 oz. 3 dwt. These three pieces have only the maker's mark, an S. under a crown in plain shield, a mark given by Cripps under 1664. They also bear a fox sejant on a cap of maintenance. This is the crest of Sir Stephen Fox, who purchased Redlynch in 1672. Mr. Cripps remarks that these chalices are found in the period 1637-1676 ; so that all the evidence goes to dating this service about the time of the purchase of Redlynch. For some account of the donor, whose present representative is the Earl of Ilchester, see Phelps' *History of Somerset* under 'Redlynch.' An alms dish or paten with gadrooned edge on foot, in centre : sacred monogram within rayed circle. Marks : 2 offic. ; letter for 1757 ; maker's mark obliterated.

SHEPTON MONTAGUE.—An Elizabeth cup and cover by I.P. The cup stands 6 in. high ; the bowl is deep in proportion to its width ; it has two bands of interlaced ornamentation, and there is another round the foot. Marks (same on cover) : 2 offic. ; letter for 1573 ; maker's mark, I.P. The cover has a band of ornamentation, and on the button is the date 1573. Cup and cover are gilded inside.

A paten on foot ; all new except foot, which is inscribed : 'Eccles : Shepton Ex dono Joan. Webbe ejusdē Ministri 1684.' By the modern date-letter it appears that this piece was renovated in 1848.

A brass alms dish and plated ditto, with monogram T.M., *i.e.*, Thomas Mason, who was vicar 1847-1851.

STOKE TRISTER.—The cup is of late eighteenth-century design. The bowl is decorated with sacred monogram within rayed circle ; the knop and foot have each a band of beads. The cup stands  $6\frac{1}{2}$  in. high. Marks : 2 offic. ; letter for 1774 ; maker's mark, W.G., probably William Gundy, entered 1747. The bowl is inscribed : 'Presented by the congregation of

Bayford to the Revd. R. C. Phelps, their minister Dec. 1838.' A paten with moulded rim, on foot. Diameter  $5\frac{1}{4}$  in. Marks : 2 offic. of Brit. sterling ; letter for 1718 ; maker's mark, L.E., in circle ; Timothy Ley, also found on paten at Sherborne. It is inscribed : ' Presented to the Revd. R. C. Phelps Recr. 1838.' An alms dish,  $6\frac{1}{8}$  in. wide. Marks, 2 offic., Exeter modern ; letter for 1839 ; maker's initials, R.W. Inscribed : ' This Service of Communion Plate was presented by the Revd. R. C. Phelps the Rector to the New Church of Stoke Trister in 1841.'

The Rev. Richard Colston Phelps was rector of Cucklington and Stoke Trister 1833-1862.

UPTON NOBLE.—The cup is a good specimen of the baluster-stem pattern ; it stands 9 in. high, and is very heavy for its size ; the interior of the bowl is gilt. Marks : 2 offic. ; letter for 1647 ; maker's mark, a bird in shield ; this is not in *Cripps*. On the bowl is pricked the date 1648, and some initials almost obliterated. This was no doubt done when the cup was presented to the the parish, as it is inscribed on foot, ' Ex dono M. Jenkyns,' in a style of lettering quite one hundred years later than the date of the cup. A broad paten on a foot, with shallow depression in centre. All the marks have disappeared except the maker's, and that is too far gone for recognition. A silver flagon, letter for 1876, inscribed on plate : ' The thank-offering Jan. 1880 of Walter Collyns Baker Rector of Batcombe cum Upton Noble for having been permitted to rebuild this church, which was in ruins ; half of the cost having been paid by himself, and half by public inscription.' A small dish, electro-plate.

WINCANTON.—The cup and paten are of late seventeenth century. The cup, height  $7\frac{1}{8}$  in., consists of a massive bowl with lip, resting on a trumpet-shaped stem and spreading foot. This cup and the paten, which serves for a cover, are very plain. They both bear the same marks : 2 offic. ; letter for 1695 ; maker's mark, initials I.C. under crown, perhaps James

Chadwick. A dish,  $9\frac{1}{2}$  in. in diameter, much resembling a modern soup plate. Marks : 2 offic. for Brit. sterling ; letter for 1712 ; maker's mark, C.O., pellets above and below, *i.e.*, Robert Cooper. On the rim of the dish is an oval shield, surrounded by mantling, bearing : Quarterly ; first and fourth, a chevron between three escallops ; second and third, a saltire ; imp., a rose. On the opposite side of the rim is a crest, a tiger ducally gorged, sejant. These are the arms and crest of Farewell of Holbrook Grange. (*See* under Charlton Musgrove in this deanery.) Thomas Farewell of Holbrook, who married Judith Williams of Horsington, was dead before 1684. He left, besides daughters, five sons. James and John do not appear to have married ; George married Ann Dawe of Ditchat ; Nathaniel, who, though the youngest son, seems to have eventually succeeded to Holbrook, married Susannah Coker of Mapowder, Dorset ; and Christopher, who died 10th October, 1728, married Catherine ———. As the rose in the shield is not the coat-of-arms of any of the other wives, it may have been that of her family, but I have not been to identify it. Another dish, 9 in. wide, quite plain. Marks : 2 offic. ; letter for 1729 ; maker's mark, T.T. under crown—Thomas Tearle. In centre of dish, within mantling is a shield bearing : a saltire, on a chief three lions rampant. Encircling the mantling is an inscription : ‘ Abraham Gapper Esq. Churchwarden of Winecalton 1728.’ In the south aisle of the parish church is a stone inscribed, *inter alia*, ‘ In a vault underneath the East part of this isle built by Abraham Gapper, Sergeant at Law was interred his body the xxiii of May MDCCLIII. aged lxxii.’ This family were prominent citizens of Wincanton in the eighteenth century. They lived at Balsome, an old house on the outskirts of the town, still standing.

A flagon with the Sheffield date-letter for 1843, inscribed : ‘ Wincanton Church A.D. 1844.’

A chalice and paten, given by the late Miss Chafyn Grove, of Zeals, who also bought and restored to the parish the great



tithes which had been alienated in 1374. The gift is a magnificent specimen of modern work, silver-gilt and enriched with precious stones. Underneath the chalice is the inscription : ‘In Dei gloriam et in usum ecclesiæ SS. Petri et Pauli apud Wincanton d.d. Julia E. Chafyn Grove in festo Paschali. MDCCCLXXXIX.’ Miss Grove was descended from Hugh Grove, who was beheaded at Exeter in 1655 for his share in the Penruddocke rising. He was settled at Chisenbury, and his only son John married Mary Chafyn, the heiress of the Zeals property.

WYKE CHAMPFLOWER.—A chapelry joined to Pitcombe. An Elizabethan cup, by I.P., and much resembling his other work. The cup stands  $6\frac{3}{4}$  in. high, the bowl deep in proportion to its width, with two bands of ornament of the period ; the knop and foot have bands of hyphens. Marks : 2 offic. ; letter for 1573 ; I.P. The paten is of a later age and design. It is flat and wide, with a shallow depression within brim ; no ornamentation. Marks : 2 offic. ; letter for 1623 ; maker’s mark, within a shield a T., with an excrescence on one side of the stem. There is no mark quite like this in *Cripps* ; but as the lower part of the mark is much worn, it may really be T.F. combined in a monogram, a mark given by *Cripps* from 1609 to 1628. On the foot of the paten is a shield, surrounded by mantling, bearing ; Quarterly, in each quarter a chevron between three crosses crosslet, on the honour point a crescent. Crest, a bull’s head. On the tomb of Henry Southworth, owner of Wyke Champflower, ‘who at his own charge builte and adorned this chapell, and departed this life the 23d of May 1625,’ (*Collinson* i, p. 219) this coat appears blazoned, first and fourth, arg. and sa. ; second and third, counter-changed. The arms in the first and fourth quarterings are Southworth, and the quartered coat is that of Dayes. The pedigree in the Visitation of 1623 begins with Sir Gilbert Southworth of Southworth, Lancs, and his wife, Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Mich. Dayes of Salmsburie,



Lanc. The crescent is the cadency mark of the second son, and so the paten was probably a present by Henry's younger brother Thomas, recorder of Wells 1608-9, M.P. for that city 1613, 1619, who died the same year as his brother.

There are also two pewter plates.

### SHEPTON MALLET DISTRICT.

THIS district contains sixteen ancient parishes and chapelries, and seven new parishes and chapelries, which have been mostly carved out of St. Cuthbert's, Wells. Elizabethan plate is to be found in seven parishes, including the Cathedral Church, which has two cups and patens and a flagon of this period, the latter being the only piece of plate (other than cup and cover) surviving of this reign. The cover is missing at East Cranmore.

COXLEY.—A new parish formed in 1844. The plate consists of a chalice, paten, and flagon (plated) recently purchased at Wippell's.

CROSCOMBE.—Two cups, parcel-gilt, with sacred monogram within rayed circle. Date-letter for 1831. On foot of one cup: 'To the glory of God, given to the Rev. J. East for Croscombe Church 1832.' A large paten on foot,  $9\frac{1}{4}$  in. in diameter, the rim moulded, and sacred monogram in centre. Marks: 2 of Brit. sterling; letter for 1713; maker's mark, wellnigh obliterated. A dish or salver, with moulded edge,  $10\frac{7}{8}$  in. in diam.; Marks: 2 offic.; maker's mark, A.R. with a fleur-de-lys between two pellets in a shield, given by Cripps under 1678; date-letter almost gone, perhaps that for 1679. A flat-topped flagon  $9\frac{1}{2}$  in. high, with same inscription as on the cup. Marks: 2 of Brit. sterling; letter for 1709; maker's mark: in a shield black-letter *℥.B.* with i above and e below—Robert Timbrell. Pewter, a set preserved in chest in vestry.

DINDER.—The cup and cover are of 18th century, but made after an earlier pattern. The cup has a slight lip to a straight-sided bowl, a thick stem with annular knop, and spreading foot. It is  $6\frac{1}{2}$  in. high. On the button of the cover is 'Dinder.' Marks (same on both): 2 offic.; letter for 1731; maker's mark, T.M. in shield, probably Thomas Mason. The cup is inscribed: 'Dinder chalice was bought 1731.' A paten on foot, diam.  $7\frac{3}{8}$  in., with moulded edge; inscribed: 'Dinder salver bought the 1 Oct. 1740.' Marks: 2 offic.; letter for 1723; maker's mark, T.M., a greyhound sejant above. This is the mark of Thomas Morse, entered 1720. A salver with gadrooned edge, on three feet; the centre filled in with foliage and A.W.A. in monogram. Inscribed: 'Given by John Armstrong, Rector, for the use of Dinder Church, Christmas 1858.' It bears the date-letter for 1827. A small flagon of ecclesiastical pattern, with date-letter for 1877.

DITCHEAT.—The cup is a fine specimen of early 17th century pattern. It stands  $8\frac{1}{2}$  in. high; the bowl is deep and has a slight lip; the stem has a knop in centre; the foot is moulded. The cover is now missing. Under the foot of the cup is an inscription: 'The Communion Cupp and Cover of the Parishe of Ditchett in Somersetshire wayes 21 & halfe and halfe Quarter.' Marks: 2 offic.; letter for 1635; maker's mark, R.W., with a rose underneath. (*see also* E. Pennard and Shepton Mallet). A flagon, flat-topped,  $8\frac{1}{2}$  in. high, with moulded foot; Inscribed: 'The silver flaggon of the Parishe of Ditchatt in Somerset wayes fortye ounces and half 1635.' Marks: 2 offic.; letter for 1635; maker's mark, R.C. with arrow head below in heart-shaped shield. (This mark is found on the communion plate at St. Margaret's, Westminster). A large paten on foot, diameter  $10\frac{1}{2}$  in. Inscribed: 'This Patten was Bought for the Parish of Ditchett by John Hoskins and George Longman Churchwardens 1732.' Marks: 2 offic.; letter for 1732; maker's mark, T.M.—Thomas Mason. Also two plated patens and a pewter dish.

**DOULTING.**—A fine Elizabethan cup and cover. The cup is  $7\frac{1}{8}$  in. high; the bowl deep in proportion to its width, with one band of ornament; above and below stem are bands of upright strokes; the foot has egg-and-dart ornament round edge. The cover is quite plain; the button seems to have been restored. Marks: 2 offic.; letter for 1573 (on cover only); maker's mark, A.K., in monogram; this mark is also found at Ashington. A plain paten, on foot, diam.  $7\frac{5}{8}$  in. Inscribed: 'This piece of plate was bought for the Parish of Dowlting by Richard White and James Stone Church Wardens 1731.' Marks: 2 offic.; letter for 1731; maker's mark, G.R., in heart-shaped shield—Gundry Roode. A chalice and paten, silver-gilt, given by Mr. Horner, of Mells, patron of the living, at the rebuilding of the church, 1871. A glass cruet with silver-gilt fittings.

**DOWNHEAD.**—A small Elizabethan cup and cover. The cup is  $5\frac{1}{4}$  in. high; there are two bands of ornament round bowl; bands of hyphens round knop and foot. Round cover one band of ornament, on button '1573.' Marks: 2 offic.; letter for 1572; maker's mark, I.P. A large paten, on foot, diameter 8 in., inscribed: 'In usum ecclesie Omnium Sanctorum de Downhead MDCCCLIV.' In centre of paten is the sacred monogram within rayed circle. Marks: 2 offic.; letter for 1777; maker's mark, R.M., R.C. in square punch—Robert Makepeace and Richard Carter.

**EAST CRANMORE.**—An Elizabethan cup, minus its cover. It is  $6\frac{1}{2}$  in. high; the bowl has two bands of running ornament; the knop and the foot are plain. Between the bands the sacred monogram has been engraved, and the interior of the bowl has been gilt. Marks: 2 offic.; letter for 1576; maker's mark, M. in shield. A small flat-topped flagon; on the front a rayed circle enclosing sacred monogram; underneath: 'Given to East Cranmore Church by Jane Elizabeth Gough.' Marks: 2 offic.; letter for 1618; maker's mark, I.C. with small figure beneath in square-shaped shield. There is no mark exactly

like this in *Cripps*, but it is not very clear. Underneath the foot the weight 19 oz.,  $\frac{1}{2}$  dwt. is given, dotted in. A large salver with moulded rim on three feet. Marks : 2 offic. ; letter for 1749 ; maker's mark, J.R.—John Robinson. It is inscribed : 'East Cranmore Church d.d. J.P., 1818.' A small salver on three feet, with date-letter for 1819. It bears the same inscription as the larger salver, but the date is one year later. The initials are those of John Paget, Esq., of East Cranmore.

EAST PENNARD.—This parish possesses an unusual quantity of fine pieces of plate. A cup and cover, wholly gilt, by the same maker as the cups at Ditchet and Shepton Mallet. The cup stands  $8\frac{1}{2}$  in. high, with a deep bowl, a short stem with knop in centre, and moulded foot. The cover has a small flange on rim to keep it in position. Marks : 2 offic. ; letter for 1633 ; maker's mark, R.W., with small rose beneath in shaped punch. Another cup, paten and flagon, all wholly gilt, and bearing the same coat-of-arms and inscription. The cup is 8 in. high, and the paten, on foot, 8 in. in diameter. Marks : (not visible on cup) : 2 offic. ; letter for 1727 ; maker's mark, W.L., most probably William Lukin. These initials are given in *Cripps* about this date in a shaped punch with curved sides. The inscription runs thus : 'Ex dono Mariæ Gerardi Martin generosi relictæ.' Arms in a lozenge : Arg., two bars gu., Imp. Az., three birds rising.' On a lias slab in front of the communion rails in East Pennard church the same coat-of-arms appears with this inscription (*Collinson* iii, 479, correcting the date in *Phelps*) : Here lyeth the body of Mary, relict of Gerard Martin, gent, who died the 15th day of March, 1731-2, aged 51.' Gerard Martin was a younger son of William Martin, who purchased the manor of East Pennard from William Harbin of Newton, Esq., in 1682. Although the family of Mary Martin, widow, is not on record, I make the following suggestion, on the basis of the family arms. The shield is given in Guillim as that of Richard Baylie, D.D., President of St. John's Coll., Oxf., and Dean of Sarum. His

second son, John, was Chancellor of Wells. In *Collinson*, vol. iii, p. 497, and *Som. Arch. and Nat. Hist. Proceedings* xvi. ii, 37, his christian name is incorrectly given as William. He married a daughter of Edward Berkeley of Pylle, the adjoining parish to East Pennard; and they both died in 1688, leaving three orphans aged seven, six, and two years respectively, that is they were born 1681, 1682, and 1686; and Mary Martin was also born in 1681. This is extracted from the correspondence of William Dodington, published in *Som. and Dorset Notes and Queries* v. p. 22, which also shows that the mother's family took charge of the orphans; and as they would probably be a good deal at Pylle, a marriage between one of them and a son of a neighbouring squire is very probable. A pair of very fine silver candlesticks, standing nearly two feet high. They bear the Sheffield Hall mark (a crown), and the date-letter for 1817, and the inscription: 'Presented by Sarah the widow of Gerard Martin, Esq., to the church of East Pennard, 1815.' In the church there are monuments to Gerald Martin, Barrister-at-Law, who died 21st December, 1789, aged 58 years; and to Sarah, relict of the above, who died 19th May, 1815, aged 69. Arms: Martin imp. gu., three horses in pale arg. Gerald Martin was the eldest son of Henry Martin; he died childless, and the property eventually passed to his niece, Sarah, wife of Edward Berkeley Napier, Esq.

EASTON.—A modern parish, part of S. Cuthbert's, Wells. The plate consists of a chalice, paten, and flagon. Each piece bears the sacred monogram, and in addition the flagon is inscribed: 'Dedicated to the service of Almighty God in the Church of S. Paul's in the parish of Wells. By six Brothers, A.D. 1842.'

HORRINGTON.—A parish formed out of S. Cuthbert's, Wells, in 1844. It possesses a chalice, two plates, and a flagon (plated) given at that date.

LOTTISHAM.—This was formerly part of Ditcheat. In 1877 it was separated, and with West Bradley (q.v.), hitherto a







PILTON,  
C. 1490.

chapelry to East Pennard, made a distinct benefice. There is a chapel here which possesses a chalice and two patens, silver-gilt, and two glass cruets with silver-gilt fittings, presented in 1877.

NORTH WOOTTON.—A cup and cover of the Georgian period, plain and solid. The cup stands  $9\frac{1}{4}$  in. high; on the button of the cover is the sacred monogram within rayed circle. Marks: 2 offic.; letter for 1750; maker's mark, J.R., with star above in shaped punch—John Robinson. A beautiful chalice and paten, wholly gilt, with date-letter for 1881, given by the Rev. T. P. Nunn, vicar of West Pennard. A glass cruet with silver mountings.

OAKHILL.—This parish was formed in 1866, the date of the plate, which consists of a chalice, paten, and flagon.

PILTON.—This parish is thrice lucky in having preserved the mediæval paten (*v.* illustration). The general design is of the Tudor type, as arranged by Mr. Cripps in *O.E.P.*, and Messrs. W. H. St. John Hope and T. M. Fallow (*Archæological Journal*, xliii). It has a narrow moulded edge and brim, within which is sunk a six-lobed depression. The spandrels between the lobes are filled with a small ornamentation. In the centre within a double circle is the vernicle, or representation of the Saviour's face. Round the brim is an inscription: ' + Orate pro bono ctatu d. J. Dier vicarius hiuc loci,' in late fifteenth century lettering. The grammar is somewhat to seek, but it is to be translated: ' Pray for the good estate of Sir J. Dier, vicar of this place.' Unfortunately there is a gap in the list of presentations to Pilton from 1468 to 1512, and there is no mention of J. Dier in the annals of Pilton. There were two incumbents of the name of John Dier in the diocese in this period. The first was presented to High Ham 1459, and also to Closworth in 1490; he vacated both by death, 1499. The second held Long Sutton 1497 to his death in 1506. The second John Dier may have been the donor. There are no marks on the paten. The vernicle, spandrels outside lobes,

the cross and the diamond-shaped ornaments separating the words of the inscription, are gilt. A fine Elizabethan cup and cover, parcel-gilt, by the same maker as the Batcombe cup (1567). The cup stands  $8\frac{1}{4}$  in. high; the parts gilt are the lip, band round bowl, knop, head and foot of stem, and base of foot. The fillets inclosing the running ornament round bowl, instead of continuing on after the interlacing, are returned back like the links of a chain. The knop has a band of hyphens. The foot is decorated with egg-and-dart ornament. The cover has a band of running ornament; this, the foot of the stem, and the button, are gilt; on the button is engraved: '1570 P. P̃AR.' Marks: 2 offic.; letter for 1570; maker's mark, H.W., with pellet above and below. Another cup,  $7\frac{1}{2}$  in. high, with a plain bowl and trumpet-shaped stem. Marks: 2 offic.; letter for 1684; maker's mark, F.S. in a shield with the top line scalloped; the same initials in a plain shield are given in *Cripps* under 1676. Round the bowl is an inscription: 'The guift of Madame Howard to this Church. Performed by Harry Bruges Esqr. A<sup>o</sup> Dni 1686.' It was more correctly a legacy, as is testified by the register of Pilton: 'The right worshipful Elizabeth Howard died May 9, and was buried at Stoke Rodney the 29 of May, 1683.' The donor was one of the daughters and co-heiresses of Sir Edward Rodney of Stoke Rodney, by Frances, daughter of Sir Robert Southwell of Woodrising, co. Norfolk, and Elizabeth his wife, daughter of Charles Howard, Lord High Admiral of England, *temp.* Elizabeth. Her father, Edward, was son of Sir John Rodney and Jane, daughter of Sir Henry Seymour. Miss Elizabeth Rodney married in 1665 Charles Howard of St. Martin's Fields, Esq., Bach. (Marr. Alleg. Vicar Gen. Cant., Harl. Soc., 1886); so that as in her own and her husband's veins there was coursing the blood of all the Howards, to say nothing of the other noble families mentioned above, she may well have claimed the title of 'right worshipful.' Her connexion with Pilton was created by her mother's will (proved 22nd March,

1659-60), who directed that her daughter Elizabeth should hold and enjoy the inclosed grounds of Pilton Park and the mansion house of Pilton during her life, which was lately granted by lease from the Marquis of Hertford. Harry Bruges, the 'performer,' was her nephew, a son of Anne Rodney and Sir Thomas Bridges, of Keynsham. He was born 1647, and died 1728; his monument is in Keynsham church (*Collinson* ii, 408). A flagon of the tankard pattern, with sloping sides and domed lid. It is ornamented with the same pattern as that on the Elizabethan cup, is parcel-gilt, and measures  $8\frac{1}{2}$  in. to lip, and 10 in. to top of lid. Marks: 3 offic.; letter for 1786; maker's mark, in square punch two sets of initials, partly worn away: they are most probably S.G.—Samuel Godbehere; E.W.—Edward Wigan; entered 1786. Pewter, a small bowl and a tall tankard, preserved in the church.

PYLLE.—The communion plate is all of one date and given by the same persons. It consists of a cup of the Georgian pattern,  $8\frac{1}{2}$  in. high, paten on foot, dish, and flagon. Marks: 2 offic.; letter for 1737; maker's mark, E.P., with small object above almost obliterated. If it is a lion, it is the mark of Edward Pocock. Each piece has the sacred monogram and the inscription: 'Ex dono Gulielmi Portman Armigi et Annæ uxoris suæ Ann: Dom: 1737.' William Berkeley of Pylle, a junior branch of that family of Bruton, took the name of Portman on succeeding to the property of Sir William Portman, Bart., 1735. His wife was Anne only daughter of Sir Edward Seymour, of Berry-Pomeroy, Devon, speaker of the House of Commons. W. Berkeley Portman died 1737 at Pylle.

SHEPTON MALLET.—A fac-simile pair of cups with covers by the same maker as the cups at Ditchat and East Pennard. The shape of the cup is nearer that of Ditchat. It stands 8 in. high, with plain bowl, gilt inside, and moulded foot. The cover has a flange to keep it in position. Marks: 2 offic.; letter for 1634; maker's mark, R. W. in shaped punch.



Underneath one cup, 'Shepton Mallet.' 'Twenty ounces halfe and a halfe quarter.' Under the other cup, 'Twenty ounces.' These pieces, and all the others except the bason, have had the sacred monogram added at some later date ; and on the two patens, 'Church of St Peter & St Paul Shepton Mallet.' A plain paten on foot,  $6\frac{3}{8}$  in. in diam. Marks : 2 offic. ; letter for 1725 ; maker's mark, I.S. in oval. This mark is given in *Cripps* with the addition of a row of tiny pellets. Two large flagons of the tankard pattern with flat lids. Marks : 2 offic. ; letter for 1733 ; maker's mark, two sets of initials in a cross-patée, T.C.—Thomas Cooke ; R.G.—Richard Gurney. A silver bason of great weight, perfectly plain,  $10\frac{1}{2}$  in. in diam. Marks : 2 offic. ; letter for 1733 ; maker's mark, I.F. in oval, perhaps John Fawdery.

STOKE ST. MICHAEL (OR STOKE LANE).—A large cup with cover, of the squat form found about 1700. It stands 8 in. high, and the diameter of the bowl at the lip is  $4\frac{1}{2}$  in. The cover is quite plain, with button. Marks : 2 offic. of Brit. sterling ; letter for 1703 ; maker's mark, E.A., with fleur-de-lys below in shield—John Eastt. The bowl is inscribed : 'Richard Clavey and Roger Stone Chirch Wardens 1703.' A paten on foot,  $6\frac{3}{8}$  in. across. Inscribed : 'The Gift of Dt. Robt. Norman to Stokelane.' There are no hall-marks, only the maker's in an oblong punch, two black-letter capitals, not easy to be made out ; they are, perhaps, H.A. This mark is struck thrice.

WELLS : THE CATHEDRAL.—For the purpose of an inventory of plate now in existence, the history of that belonging to Wells Cathedral begins in 1572, when the Chapter decreed 'that the plate that beforetime were used to superstition shalbe defaced, and of the greatest challaice shalbe made a fayer Communion cuppe with as much convenient speede as maye be before the ffeaste of Easter, and of the lesser challaice another by the tyme before limited, 19 Nov. 1572.' Whether this decree proceeded *ab intra* from their own convictions, or *ab extra*

from the order of the Bishop, is shrouded in darkness, as the episcopal registers are quite silent on the point (communicated by Canon Church). The two chalices were packed off to London to a certain goldsmith, whose initials were I.P., and two 'fayer' communion cups and patens were returned, if not by Easter, at all events by S. Dunstan's Day (19th May), 1573. The larger cup with its cover silver-gilt stands  $9\frac{3}{4}$  in. high; the diameter of the lip is  $4\frac{7}{8}$  in., and the depth of the bowl is  $5\frac{1}{2}$  in. Its shape is that of an inverted cone, with the apex removed; the bowl is encircled with two ribs for support, the space between being filled in with a band of the usual running ornament; above and below are bands of similar ornament, the fillets interlacing through hollow diamonds; above and below stem are bands of egg-and-dart ornament, and hollow diamonds with a pellet in centre; the knob is decorated with upright strokes and serpentine belt; the spread of the foot has the egg-and-dart and hollow diamond repeated. It is indeed a very 'fayer' cup. The cover has the running ornament on the domed part, and on the flat outer rim an interlaced serpentine design. On the button is a St. Andrew's cross, and the date 1573. The smaller cup (late 'the lesser chalice') stands 9 in. high. The bowl has only one supporting rib, and there are two belts of ornaments, but each of these is composed of two bands enclosed by three fillets. The rest of the design is similar to that on the larger cup. On the cover the St. Andrew's cross is omitted. The same goldsmith also supplied a flagon of the rare jug-shape or round-bellied pattern. It is  $12\frac{1}{2}$  in. high and silver-gilt; the upper part, particularly the neck and the handle, are engraved with running patterns and arabesques; the foot is treated like those of the cups. All these pieces bear the same marks: 2 offic.; letter for 1572-3; maker's mark, I.P. After the Restoration another flagon was made to match the earlier one; it bears 2 offic. marks; the letter for 1667; and the maker's mark in the upper part of a plain shield, a star below a T. and another letter almost invisible, perhaps S.; this

mark is not in *Cripps*. Two silver-gilt patens on foot with plain raised edge. Diameter, 7 in. Marks : 2 offic. ; letter for 1667 ; maker's mark, an anchor between the initials T.H. A large alms dish, 20 in. in diameter, with moulded edge. On the centre a St. Andrew's cross on a shield, surrounded by mantling. Marks : 2 offic. ; letter for 1675 ; maker's mark, R.N. in shaped punch with small object beneath. On the underside is the inscription : 'D. Ri. Busby Thesaurarius.' A pair of handsome silver-gilt candlesticks, 27 in. high, resting on a tripod supported on three feet. There are no marks visible, being probably obliterated when they were gilt. They are inscribed : 'The gift of Mrs. Agnes Tucker of Coryton Devonshire 1789.' 'Gilt A.D. 1883 by the gift of James and Mary Lean.' Another pair of fluted candlesticks, silver-gilt, 15 in. high. Marks : 3 offic. ; letter for 1793 ; maker's mark, I.S. in shaped punch, *i.e.*, John Scofield, of whom it is recorded that he produced a great number of candlesticks and much other plate. Each piece is inscribed : 'Purchased with xx pounds the gift of Mrs. Agnes Tucker, and xxvii pounds added by the chapter 1794.' A modern chalice and paten, wholly gilt, after a Spanish pattern, with the date-letter for 1896. The chalice is inscribed : 'In mem. Hectoris McLean ob. 1888.' A spoon with perforated bowl and rat-tailed handle with knob at end. There are no marks ; there is just such another at S. Cuthbert's. A plain silver mace, 31 in. long (carried by the Dean's verger), with figure of S. Andrew with cross on the end ; inscribed : 'Cathedral Church of Saint Andrew in Wells 1823.' The date letter is for 1822-3. Another silver mace, 30 in. long (carried by the first clerk), with the figure of S. Andrew and cross (imperfect) on the end. It is inscribed : 'Given to Wells Cathedral by the Rev<sup>d</sup>. Dr. Eyre Treasurer and Canon Residentiary 1808.' The date-letter is for the year 1798. There are also a silver-plated mace and some pewter plates.

In addition to the various pieces described above, which are

all in use, there are preserved in the Library of the Cathedral three small chalices of base metal. They have been recovered from coffins dug up at various times in the Cathedral, one of them in 1730. Two stone coffins now in the crypt under the Chapter-house, show how room was found for them. In one the mason left a projecting block on the right side, and then hollowed it out to receive the chalice. In the other, space was found in the thickness of the wall of the coffin itself, but to avoid weakening it too much (?), the space was hollowed out to the shape of the chalice somewhat as if it were a mould, and the chalice was then slipped in sideways. One chalice has a bowl broad and shallow, a circular stem without a knop, and round foot. In the other two the bowl is rather deeper, and there is a rudimentary knob on the stem. This pair much resemble a coffin chalice figured in *Cripps*, p. 188, and ascribed to the thirteenth century.

WELLS, ST. CUTHBERT.—As, until well on in the present century, this was the parish church, not only for the city but also for a vast area around, it is not surprising that the various donations of plate are almost superabundant. An Elizabethan cup and cover by I.P. The cup is a very fine specimen. It is silver-gilt and stands  $8\frac{3}{16}$  in. high. Round the bowl are two bands of ornament, the enclosing fillets being hatched; in the upper band the fillets interlace through an open diamond. The knop has a band of hyphens, and the foot the running ornament. Marks: 2 offic.; letter for 1573; maker's mark, I.P. The cover is, no doubt, a fac-simile of the original, even to the inscription on the button, '1573 S. Cuthbert in Wells'; but the lettering is much later in style, and the two official marks stamped inside are those of the Britannia sterling, *i.e.* 1696—1720; the maker's initials are B.A., as on the paten given by J. Worrall, 1719 (*see below*). It is silver-gilt.

Another cup and cover, silver-gilt of great weight. The cup is  $8\frac{1}{2}$  in. high, with a deep bowl and moulded foot. The cover is quite plain with a button. Marks: 2 offic. of Brit.



sterling ; letter for 1705 ; maker's mark, P.Y. below a crown for Benjamin Pyne. Each piece is inscribed : 'Presented to the Vicar of S. Cuthbert's Wells by W. Westley, Esq., A.D. 1706.' In addition to this gift of plate, weighing 25 oz. 10 dwt., he gave other gifts to the church and city of Wells. A pair of huge flagons, each 14 in. high, 5 in. wide at lip. They are of the tankard type, flat-topped with cylindrical bodies and spreading feet. Marks : 2 offic. ; letter for 1638 ; maker's mark, R.C., with arrow-head beneath in heart-shaped punch. Inscribed round lip (same on each), 'In honorem Sanctiss'i Redemptoris mei Jesu Christi.' Inscribed round drum (on one), 'Quid retribuam D'no pro ejus beniginitatibus omnibu' erga me Psal. 116, 12' ; (on the other) 'Accipiam calicem salutis, et Nomen Dñi invocabo. Psal. 116, 12.' Below each text is a shield bearing, Arg. three pallets az. ; motto 'recta certa.' Round the foot : 'Ecclesiæ Parochiali S. Cuthberti in Welles.' Underneath : 'Ezechiel Barkham Gen' Parochianus, Donavit 1639.'

A paten on foot, with wide brim. Marks : 2 offic. ; letter for 1630 ; maker's mark, I.M., above a pig passant. The foot is inscribed : 'The gift of Cornelous Wattes and An his wife to Saynt Cudberdes in Wells the 8th of June, 1644.' Another paten 11½ in. across, with very wide brim. There is only one mark visible, the maker's initials I.B., with crescent above in shield. This mark with the crescent below the initials is given by Cripps, 1669 to 1674. Round the brim runs an inscription : 'The gift of Elizabeth Mattock widow, wife of Arthur Mattock of this Citty : gentleman 1683.' There are also two shields with mantling. The first bears : A chevron party per chevron between three fleur-de-lys. Crest : A boar salient per bend (Mattock). The second shield bears : three lions ramp., two and one (Prowse). James P., of Norton Fitzwarren, in his will proved 30th September, 1661, names my 'daughter Elizabeth, wife of Arthur Mattock.' Yet another paten on foot, with moulded edge, diam. 9½ in. Marks : 2 offic. of Brit. sterling ;



letter for 1717; maker's mark the initials B.A.—Richard Bayley. The paten is inscribed: 'The gift of Mr. Jacob Worrall Mayor 1719.' A salver on three feet, with raised moulded edge, diam. 9 in. Marks: 2 offic.; letter for 1759; maker's mark, E.C. in rectangular punch—Ebenezer Coker. In centre on an oval shield are these arms: 'Three fishes naiant in pale, in base a crescent between 7 mullets.' A very large salver, 16in. across, of same design, date, and armorial bearings as the preceding, but the maker's initials are in script letters instead of Roman type; both marks are referred by Cripps to the same person. In Serel's *History of St. Cuthbert's, Wells*, will be found an account of the plate and their donors, with the exception of the last two pieces. I suppose them to be the arms of the family of Salmon of Wells and Wrington. In St. Cuthbert's there is a monument 'To the memory of William Salmon of this city, who died Nov. 22nd, 1761, aged 48 years; and of Elizabeth his wife, who died Aug. 6th, 1751, aged 80 years. (*Phelps*, who has probably put wife for mother.)

A spoon with perforated bowl and rat-tailed handle, no marks; exactly the same as the one at the Cathedral.

WELLS: ST. THOMAS.—A new parish formed in 1858. The plate consists of two chalices, with patens, silver-gilt, bearing date-letters for 1849, and 1850. The chalices are inscribed: *Calicem salutaris accipiam, et nomen Domini invocabo.* The patens bear: 'Per crucem et passionem tuam libera nos, Domine.' A flagon (plated) inscribed: 'Gloria in ecclesia Domino. Alleluia.'

WEST BRADLEY.—An Elizabethan cup and cover, silver gilt by I.P. The cup is  $6\frac{3}{16}$  in. high, with two bands of running decoration. The marks are almost illegible; the date-letter is for 1572. The cover has a band of running ornament; on the button is the date 1573. 'The old chalice and paten were discovered much cracked, out of shape, and black from neglect thirty years ago by the then incumbent (my father).

He had them carefully repaired and gilt; and the second paten made exactly to match; he also gave the almsdish.' Note by the Rev. R. P. Goldney in Return of church-plate, 2 May, 1884. This second paten is still in use; it bears the date-letter for 1852. The almsdish is of plated metal, wholly gilt.

WEST CRANMORE.—A modern cup with a band of pretty ornamentation, consisting of oakleaves and acorns round lip. The bowl is gilt within, and the foot is hexagonal. Marks: 3 offic.; and date-letter for 1801. The foot is inscribed: 'The gift of Colonel John Strode to the Parish of West Cranmore 25th Decr. 1801.' Also a small flagon and two salvers of plated metal. One of the salvers bears a crest, a demi-lion ramp.; the other is inscribed: 'From Col. Strode to the Parish of Cranmore 4th May 1807.' The long connexion of the Strodes with Cranmore and Shepton Mallet was broken in 1895, when Southill House was sold.

WOOKEY HOLE.—This is a chapel of ease (erected 1874) to St. Cuthbert's, Wells. The plate consists of a chalice, paten, and flagon, given about 1880.

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### MERSTON DISTRICT.

THIS portion of the old deanery of Merston contains fourteen ancient parishes and one chapelry; and two modern parishes and one district chapelry, all carved out of the mother parish of Yeovil. Three parishes retain the Elizabethan cup and cover, and one has the cup alone.

ASHINGTON.—This parish was in advance of the greater part of the diocese in procuring the new style of vessels, as they bear the date-letter for 1571. The cup stands 5 $\frac{3}{8}$  in. high; the bowl has a single band of running ornament with four intersections; at top and base of stem are bands of upright strokes; round the foot a band of egg-and-dart ornament.

The cover has also a band of running ornament. Marks : (same on both pieces) : 2 offic. ; letter for 1571 ; maker's mark, A.K. in monogram. A paten with moulded rim, on foot,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  in. in diam. Marks : 2 offic. for Brit. sterling ; letter for 1717 ; maker's mark F.A., either Thomas Ffarren or Thomas Farrer ; the mark being too worn to distinguish between the two. In the middle of the paten a wivern on a wreath, being the crest of the family of St. Barbe, owners of Ashington for several centuries. In the church is a monument to Sir John St. Barbe, Bart., 'who died at his seat at Broadlands, in Hampshire, 7th December, 1723, leaving for his only heir and executor Humphrey Sydenham, Esq., of Combe, in Somersetshire.' (*Collinson*, vol. iii, p. 214.) Another paten on foot, 6 in. in diam. ; in the centre sacred monogram within rayed circle. Marks : 2 offic. ; letter for 1727 ; maker's mark, T.T., perhaps Thomas Tearle, and 'Ashington 1727.' A flagon given in 1878 by the Rev. C. O. Goodford, Provost of Eton and Rector of Ashington and Chilton Cantelo.

BARWICK.—The cup and paten are of an unusual pattern. The cup stands  $7\frac{1}{4}$  in. high ; the bowl is quite plain, the shape conical. The stem is peculiar, it is not divided in the middle by a knop, but is trumpet-shaped, with a wide flange on collar close up under the bowl. This design reproduces that of the earliest cups which were made in the reign of Edward VI, very few of which survive. Marks : 2 offic. ; letter for 1628 ; maker's mark, D.W., with stars and pellets above and beneath. The paten is a small dish or saucer, evidently first made for domestic use. It is  $5\frac{3}{4}$  in. wide ; a plain outer rim surrounds an inner one slightly depressed, covered with a series of ovoid figures with pellets in the vacant spandrels. These figures have a border, and the central space and the border are alternately plain and ornamented with a fish-scale pattern. Marks : 2 offic. ; letter for 1640 ; maker's, only an M. is visible, the upper part being worn away ; it is perhaps that of Thomas Maundry. On the under side the initials I.H. are

dotted in with some flourishes executed in the same way. John Harvey *alias* Harford was instituted to Barwick 12th August, 1643.

Another paten on foot. Marks : 2 Brit. sterling ; letter for 1714 ; maker's mark, C.O., pellets above and below—Robert Cooper. On bottom of foot is engraved a talbot within an oval surrounded by mantling. A flagon 11½ in. high, of ordinary tankard pattern, by the same maker as the paten, but with letter for 1709. On the drum is the same crest of a talbot. This gift is noted in the register under 1709 : 'A large silver flagon, given to ye church of Barwick by Mrs. Merril Symes, lady of the manor, ye 25th of December in ye year 1709, having her cress engraved thereon.' This lady's maiden name was Horner (of Mells) ; She married Thomas Symes, Esq., of Barwick, who died 1681 (J. Batten's *Historical Notes on South Somerset*, pp. 11, 16). A dish with sacred monogram in centre. Underneath : 'The gift of John Newman to Barwick Church A.D. 1848.' Mr. Newman's father purchased Barwick from the Symes family in 1750.

A pewter bowl at present in the font.

CHILTON CANTELO.—An Elizabethan cup and cover by I.P. The cup is 6¾ in. high ; the bowl has two bands of running ornament, the fillets interlacing with curved folds. At top and bottom of stem bands of horizontal lines. The stem has probably been renovated ; round the foot a band of intermittent lines. The cover has one band of ornament ; on the button the date 1574. Marks : 2 offic. ; letter for 1573 ; maker's, I.P.

A paten on foot, 5½ in. in diameter. In centre sacred monogram within rayed circle, to which has been added an outer band of Elizabethan running ornament. Marks : 2 of Brit. sterling (1696-1720), the others obliterated. A flagon presented by Rev. J. Wilder, Fellow of Eton College, at the date of the restoration of the church, 1864.

Pewter : a flagon, pint size ; a dish with ornamented rim,

on three legs. Marks, LONDON under X, and in shields, 1, a chevron between three lions' heads erased ; 2, a harp (?) ; 3, lion's head erased ; 4, S.D.

CLOSWORTH.—A cup of the heavy design found late in the seventeenth century. It stands 8 in. high, silver-gilt, with very thick stem and rudimentary knop. Marks : 2 offic. ; letter for 1685 ; maker's mark, I.S., with pellet below. It is inscribed : 'Ex Dono Thomæ Rocke & Rich<sup>d</sup> Rocke Generos. An<sup>o</sup> Dom. 1686.' For some account of this family see *Som. and Dorset Notes and Queries*, iii, 164-5.

The paten is a flat piece of silver plate 5 in. across, turned up at the rim, which is ornamented with a row of beads. To this has been roughly soldered a plain foot. No marks visible.

A modern paten and flagon inscribed : 'In memoriam E. G. Bower 1867.' This gift was made by the late rector and his wife in memory of their only child.

EAST COKER.—Imprimis, a cup and cover of early 17th century. The cup is 6½ in. high, and very heavy for its size. It has a plain bowl, stem with knop in centre, and moulded foot with a projecting flange. The cover is also quite plain. They bear the same marks : 2 offic. ; letter for 1627 ; maker's mark, T.F. in monogram. Underneath the cup : 'Eastcoker H.G.I.R.' [A John Reed appears in register about this time.] On button of paten, sacred monogram and the date 1628.

Another cup and cover of the next century. The cup much resembles the one at Milton Clevedon, though not so tall or elaborate. It is 8¾ in. high. The cover is different, having been designed to serve as a paten. Marks : 2 Brit. sterling ; letter for 1722 ; maker's mark partly worn away on both pieces, but perhaps that of Aug. Courtauld, *i.e.* C O below a fleur-de-lys in shaped punch ; but here the figure above is more like a crown. Each piece has a coat-of-arms in a fanciful shield : Az. a cross flory or, between four mullets pierced arg., imp. Arg. a chevron gu., in chief two roses. The first coat



is that of Helyar of Coker Court (but the tinctures of the cross and the mullets should be interchanged), and the second coat is that of Weston, of Weston in Dorset. William Helyar, of Coker Court, b. 1720, married Betty, daughter and coheirress of William Weston, of Weston, Esq.

In the vestry is preserved a pewter bowl of uncertain age, somewhat damaged.

**HENDFORD.**—A new parish in Yeovil, formed in 1845. It possesses a chalice, two patens, and a flagon with scriptural inscriptions, bearing the date-letter for 1844-5.

**MARSTON MAGNA.**—The parish has an Elizabethan cup, unfortunately without its cover. It is a fine example, 7 $\frac{3}{8}$  in. high, parcel-gilt, with two bands of ornament round the bowl; the foot has egg-and-dart ornament. Marks : 2 office.; letter for 1573; maker's mark, I.P. A large modern paten with Sheffield mark. In pewter there is a quart pot with two handles, of uncertain date.

**MUDFORD.**—A cup and cover of earlier Georgian era. It stands 9 in. high, the bowl deep, an annular knop round stem. The cover serves as paten; it has a deep depression within rim; on the button is the date 1772. Marks (same on both) : 2 offic.; letter for 1758; maker's mark, W.P., with small cross below in shaped shield. This mark is not in *Cripps*. A paten of earlier date, 6 $\frac{1}{4}$  in. in diam., on foot. In the centre a cross and the sacred monogram. Underneath it is inscribed : 'It belong to Mudford Church : in Som'sett 1718.' Marks : 2 Brit. sterling; letter for 1718; maker's mark, G.A., under crown within circle—William Gamble.

Pewter : Three plates, and a curious flat-topped flagon.

**PRESTON PLUCKNETT.**—It retains the Elizabethan cup and cover. The cup is 5 $\frac{7}{8}$  in. high; the bowl is unusually wide for its depth, it has two bands of ornament. The foot has a band of intermittent lines. The cover has a band of running ornament, and on the button the date 1574. Marks (same on both pieces) : 2 offic.; letter for 1574; maker's

mark, I.P. Another cup and paten ; the cup is  $11\frac{1}{8}$  in. high ; the bowl  $4\frac{1}{2}$  in. wide, and 6 in. in depth, rivalling the giants at Horsington. It is very plain. Marks : 2 offic. ; letter for 1728 ; maker's mark, T.T.—Thomas Tearle. The paten is  $5\frac{1}{2}$  in. wide, flat with low rim round edge, and stands on a foot ; same marks as on cup. Round the bowl of the cup is an inscription : 'The gift of Simeon Michell Gent. to the Church of Preston 1728.'

QUEEN CAMEL.—The plate here is all modern. It consists of a fine silver-gilt chalice and paten of mediæval design, procured in 1890. A cruet with plated fittings, and two plated cups, interior of bowls gilt.

In the "Return" sent to Taunton Museum in 1885, there was an account of a silver jug which weighed  $2\frac{1}{4}$  lbs. avoirdupois ; only mark, a lion inside lip. From the drawing I should imagine the jug to be of late eighteenth century work. Also a silver cup, no marks visible, of perhaps the same date as the jug.

RIMPTON.—The cup is of an unusual shape and design. There are no marks either on it or on the cover, but luckily the latter bears the date 1637 on the button. The cup stands  $6\frac{5}{8}$  in. high ; the bowl is slightly convex in shape ; round the lip is a narrow belt of leaves ; round the middle of the bowl a broad belt divided by a wavy line into eight compartments, which the designer has filled in with—a half-length cherub, a cow's head, a thistle, a rose, and four indescribable arabesques, one of which bears a resemblance to a dinner serviette in a wineglass. The stem and foot follow Elizabethan models ; round the latter is a band of ornament similar to that round lip of bowl. "Rimpton" is engraved on bowl. A plain paten on foot,  $8\frac{1}{2}$  in. in diameter, inscribed : 'Rimpton 1733.' Marks : 2 offic. ; letter for 1731 ; maker's mark, T.M.—Thomas Mason. A flagon of plated metal.

SUTTON BINGHAM.—A small cup,  $5\frac{1}{16}$  in. high ; the bowl

and stem are made out of the same piece of silver, the stem being rather more concave than the bowl, and ornamented with three lines incised round the middle. Of pattern or ornament there is none. Marks: 2 offic.; date-letter obliterated; makers' initials, T.C. and R.G., arranged in a four-lobed punch—Thomas Cooke and Richard Gurney. These initials are given by Cripps for 1735, arranged in a cross patée. A small paten with the date-letter for 1886.

TRENT.—The service of plate is all of the eighteenth century. The cup is  $8\frac{3}{8}$  in. high, of the usual Georgian pattern. Inscribed: 'Poculum Benedictionis A.D. 1737.' Marks (same on all): 2 offic.; letter for 1737; maker's mark, I.M. in punch—John Millington. The cover serves for paten, diameter  $5\frac{3}{4}$  in., on button, '1737.' A plate, 9 in. in diameter, quite plain, 'A.D. 1737.' A straight-sided flagon, tankard pattern, with elaborate handle and moulded foot. Extreme height,  $9\frac{1}{4}$  in. Inscribed: 'Lagenam hanc una cum poculo Tri-uni Deo Ad usum Ecclesiæ Tridentinæ in agro Somersetsensi Humillimè dedit vovit Consecravitq. Barnabas Smyth Ejusdem Ecclesiæ Rector A.D. 1717.' Collinson, ii 388, says: "On a tombstone in Trent churchyard, 'Beneath lieth the body of the Rev. Mr. Barnabas Smyth, born at Panton in the county of Lincoln, Nov. the 21st 1692: chosen scholar of C.C.C. Oxon., Aug. the 7th 1709: nominated to the rectory of this parish Oct. 26, 1732: buried February 9th 1760.'" Mr. Smyth drew up an interesting account of the parish, which is preserved in the church safe.

WEST CAMEL.—The plate here is all of recent date, replacing some which was stolen from the rectory July, 1855. It consists of a chalice and paten, parcel-gilt, of good mediæval design. The date-letter is for 1855. Extract from the vestry book: 'Mem. On July 8, 1855 the Rectory House was broken into in time of Morning Prayer and the old Communion plate stolen therefrom.'

An electro-plated alms dish and flagon.

WEST COKER.—A cup and cover of the early part of 17th century. The cup is  $7\frac{1}{16}$  in. high; the bowl is conical in shape, with slight lip, very plain; a small knob on stem; there is a flange above the spread of the foot. No marks visible except the maker's, the initials W.S. in shield. The cover serves for paten, diam.  $4\frac{1}{2}$  in., there is no flange, only a shallow depression within rim. Same mark as on cup, and 1631 dotted on button.

A flagon and paten of pewter.

YEOVIL, ST. JOHN'S.—This, the mother church of the town, has lost nearly all its original plate. There are now two cups and patens with date-letter for 1855, each bearing the sacred monogram and the inscription:—‘S. John's Church, Yeovil.’ A very large flagon of tankard pattern. Marks: 2 Brit. sterling, letter for 1704; maker's mark, G i, under a mullet—John Gibbons. A set of alms dishes, the largest inscribed: ‘In memory of William Bide who died 7th August 1864 aged 55 years. Presented to St. John's Church Yeovil by his nephew and nieces, Thomas William Dampier-Bide, Elizabeth Bide Dampier, Mary Anne W. Whetham, Christmas 1881.’ This dish is 18 in. in diam. Four smaller dishes  $9\frac{1}{2}$  in. in diam., inscribed: ‘In loving memory of Thomas Dampier who died 20th May 1876 aged 75 years, and of Elizabeth his wife who died 7th April 1881, aged 73 years. Presented with the three companion Plates to St. John's Church Yeovil by their children, Elizabeth Bide Dampier, Mary Anne W. Whetham, Thomas William Dampier-Bide, Christmas 1881.’

YEOVIL, ST. MICHAEL'S.—A new parish formed in 1897, possessing modern plate only.

YEOVIL MARSH.—A new parish formed about forty years ago, possessing modern plate only.

## MILBORNE PORT DISTRICT.

THIS district contains eleven ancient parishes and one modern district chapel. Elizabethan cups and covers are preserved in four parishes, all being of local manufacture, three at Sherborne and one unknown.

ABBAS (OR TEMPLE) COMBE.—The cup and cover are of the Caroline period. The cup is  $7\frac{7}{8}$  in. high, quite plain, the bowl straight-sided with a slight outward curve at lip. The stem and foot are more complicated with mouldings than the Elizabethan specimens. The cover has a hollow depression within a brim which is without the usual flange to keep it steady on the cup. Marks (same on both pieces): 2 offic.; letter for 1628; maker's mark, R.M. above a cinquefoil. A large flagon with date-letter for 1845. Inscribed: 'The gift of Jasper Peck Esqr. to the Church of Templecombe 1845.' The donor was at one time lord of the manor. Two handsome square salvers, the side measuring  $5\frac{1}{4}$  in. They stand on four feet, with moulded edges and ornamented angles. Marks: 2 offic. of Brit. sterling; letter for 1725; maker's mark, a monogram of A.Ne., *i.e.*, Anthony Nelme. Underneath is a coat-of-arms and inscription; on a lozenge-shaped shield surrounded by mantling, three cinquefoils; on a chevron, a lion's face affrontée between two roundels. Inscription: 'The gift of Mary Hounson Fox to the Church of Temple-Combe 1837.' The Fox family have been patrons of the living for many years.

CHARLTON HORETHORNE.—An Elizabethan cup and cover by Richard Orenge of Sherborne (*see* Introduction). The cup is  $6\frac{7}{8}$  in. high, the bowl is concave with one band of ornamentation, above and below the stem are bands of upright strokes, the foot is plain. There are two marks: a circle filled with beads terminating in a ferrule and short handle; the other the initials R.O. in rectangular punch. It was this second mark which led to the identification of the maker. The cover with foot is plain; round the cover is the inscription: 'James



Gylbert warden.” On the button is the date ‘1603.’ A large paten on foot,  $7\frac{3}{4}$  in. across. Marks : 2 offic. ; letter for 1634 ; maker’s mark almost gone, the second letter, B., only remaining. Round rim this inscription : ‘Donum Mariæ Hussey Ecclesiæ de Charleton Whorethorne in Comitatu Somerset.’

A modern flagon of ecclesiastical design, inscribed : ‘Donum Johannis F. S. Phabayn ecclesiæ Sancti Petri de Charlton Horethorne A.D. 1866.’ The donor was rector of the parish for many years. He died 1889.

There are also several vessels of base metal. Two tankards, quart and pint measure, flat-topped with spreading foot. A large shallow dish of latten or some base yellow metal, inscribed : ‘Isabel Mason 1672.’ The whole of the dish is covered with floral and other designs, and in the centre is a shield containing the bust and full face of a crowned female figure.

CORTON DENHAM.—An Elizabethan cup and cover by R. Orenge of Sherborne (*see* Introduction), bearing his mark, and the date 1573 on button of cover. The cup is  $7\frac{3}{8}$  in. high ; the running ornament round the bowl is of the usual London pattern ; the ribands, however, do not interlace, only meet. The knop is much smaller than in the Henstridge cup, and the two parts of the stem are trumpet-shaped instead of being tubular. The foot and the cover are plain. A paten, with moulded edge, on foot ; diameter,  $6\frac{1}{8}$  in. There is only one mark, the initials I.H. above a fleur-de-lys, given by *Cripps* in 1677. Round the paten the words of 1 Cor. x, 16. On the foot : ‘Given by Tho. Brickenden Rectr. 1677.’ He was rector 1660-1700.

A new set of communion plate—chalice, paten and flagon—was given at the restoration of the church in 1870. Each piece is inscribed : ‘Corton Denham Church 1870.’ An old pewter plate.

GOATHILL.—The cup and cover were given in 1711, but as the date-letter on the former is that for the year 1642, they must have done duty in some other church. The cup so

exactly resembles that in the adjoining parish of Milborne Port, which is not marked, that there is every reason to suppose that they came from the same maker about the same time. Further, the stem much resembles that of the cup at North Cheriton (also in this Deanery) which is dated 1623; and this in its turn is much the same as the one at West Lydford, which has no date-letter. None of the maker's marks on this group of cups are given in *Cripps*.

The cup  $6\frac{1}{4}$  in. high. Marks: 2 offic.; letter for 1642; maker's mark, R.W., above a winged horse, not in *Cripps*. The bowl has one band of the running Elizabethan decoration, but coarsely done. There is also an inscription: 'This chalice belongs to the church of Goathill ex dono John Molins Anno Dom. 1711.' The cover fits loosely on the cup; it is quite plain. The only mark is a shaped punch with concave sides enclosing the initials I.A.; struck twice.

A brass alms dish, inscribed: 'Goathill 1862.'

HENSTRIDGE.—The cup and cover are perhaps the finest example of R. Orenge's work. The cup is  $8\frac{7}{8}$  in. high, the bowl, of the cone shape, spreading outward at the lip. There is one band of ornament, the inclosing fillets curved inward to touch at four points but not interlacing; the space between the fillets is filled with arabesque figures; the upright designs at the meeting of the fillets are also of an unusual pattern. The stem is tubular of the same diameter throughout; the knop is large and perfectly plain. At top and bottom of stem are bands of upright strokes. The foot and the cover have bands of ornament; on the button of the letter is the date 1574. A large paten with gadrooned edge on foot,  $9\frac{1}{2}$  in. in diam. Marks: 2 offic. for Brit. sterling; letter for 1698; maker's mark, undecipherable. In the centre, surrounded by mantling, is a shield, bearing: On a fess three trefoils slipped between three greyhounds' heads erased and collared (*Churchey*); imp., A cross engrailed between four water-bougets (*Bourchier*); Crest, A greyhounds' head erased

holding in his mouth a trefoil slipped. James Churchey of Wincanton, in his will dated 25 Oct., 1720, mentions William Churchey of Henstridge, merchant. The Bouchier family lived at Thornhill in the adjoining parish of Stalbridge. The pedigree given in *Hutchins*, iii, Appendix, does not give this alliance.

Two large cruets with silver-mounted stoppers.

HORSINGTON.—No early plate here. There is a pair of enormous cups of the early part of the eighteenth century. Each stands 13 in. high, diameter of lip 6 in., depth of bowl  $6\frac{3}{4}$  in. They are devoid of ornament, but there is a projecting rib round the middle of the bowl. The only marks are the initials C.M.D. (the two latter in a monogram) in a shield between two dogs trotting to the sinister, not in *Cripps*. Round the bowl is an inscription: 'The gift of Thomas Wickham Rector of Horsington.' There were two rectors of this name, the first from 1686 to 1725, when his son succeeded and held the living till 1757. I imagine the donor to be the earlier Thomas Wickham. In great contrast to the above is a Lilliputian cup and cover, only  $4\frac{1}{2}$  in. high, quite plain. The marks are nearly obliterated, but the date-letter is that for 1734. On the bowl is the inscription: 'Ex dono revdi Ant: Wickham in Usus Parochiæ Horsington.' Ant. Wickham succeeded his half-brother Thomas in 1753, and died 15 Apr., 1767.

A paten on foot, 9 in. in diam. Marks: 2 offic.; letter for 1723; maker's mark, W.D., *i.e.* William Darker. Underneath

T.H. churchwardens.

I.W. 1723.

A standing cup and cover of the same pattern as the well-known 'Edmonds' cup. This magnificent specimen of domestic plate stands  $12\frac{3}{4}$  in. high, and with the cover 20 in., the diameter at lip is 5 in., and the depth of the bowl is also 5 in. It is silver-gilt and elaborately chased and ornamented. For its general appearance see the photograph of the cup at

Yarlington, but the design on the bowl is altogether different. Marks : 2 offic. ; letter for 1614 ; maker's mark, I.F. in monogram. Besides the cup at Yarlington, there is another at Odcombe in this county, and they are to be found in other churches in England. Their value may be gauged by the fact that more than twenty years ago, when old plate was not so much appreciated as it is now, a cup of this fashion, gilt, weighing 46 oz., was sold by public auction in London for £200.

Under the lip of the Horsington cup is this inscription : 'Ex dono Benjamini et Johannis Hoskins Gifford fratrum de Boreham Arm. in com. Wilts.' The descent and connexion of this family with Horsington is traced by Phelps. The donors were the sons of Benjamin and Mary, daughter of John Hoskins Esq., of Beaminster, Dorset. The younger son John married Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Nicholas Watts Esq., of Shanks House in Cucklington, 'which after his marriage he made the place of his residence and died there without issue 30 July 1744, in the 52nd year of his age.'

MILBORNE PORT.—The ancient borough possesses a cup and cover without any marks, but so exactly similar to the one at Goathill (*q.v.*) that there can be no doubt that they were made by the same hand. The cup stands  $7\frac{1}{4}$  in. high ; there is a band of imitation Elizabethan ornament round the bowl, but coarsely executed. The cover is a marvel of plainness.

A large paten with gadrooned edge on foot ; diameter,  $11\frac{1}{2}$  in. Marks : 2 offic. ; letter for 1688 ; maker's mark, P. under a crown—Benjamin Pyne. Underneath inscribed : 'Given to the use of the Church of Milborne-Port in Somersettshire by Sr Thomas Trauell in ye year of our Lord 1691.' Sir Thomas Travell, knt., was owner of Ven in this parish, and M.P. for the borough 1689-1713. He sold Ven about 1708 to James Medlycott, Esq., whose son Thomas presented the flagon. This is one of the usual tankard pattern,  $9\frac{1}{2}$  in. high to lip ; the foot is not so extravagant as in many pieces of



this period. Marks : 2 offic. ; letter for 1733 ; maker's mark, G.S.—Gabriel Sleath. Inscription under foot : ‘The gift of Thos. Medlycott Esqr. of Ven. Churchwarden 1734.’ He represented the borough in several parliaments, and died 21st July, 1763, aged 67.

A silver spoon of the same design as the gold one used at the Coronation. Inscribed : ‘Sanctissimo Jesu D.D. 1890.’

MILBORNE WICK.—An outlying hamlet of Milborne Port, with a modern district chapel. The plate consists of a beautiful silver-gilt chalice and paten of mediæval design, bearing the inscription : ‘Sanctissimo Jesu ad usum Oratorii juxta flumen in Vico de Milborne, D.D. Vicarius 1891.’ The donor was Rev. W. J. Birkbeck, vicar of Milborne Port, 1883-1894.

NORTH CHERITON.—A plain cup and paten of Jacobean period. The cup stands  $7\frac{3}{4}$  in. high. The bowl is gilt within, no ornamentation. The stem and knop resemble the cups at Lydford West, Milborne Port, and Goathill, *q.v.* ; these parts and foot are inferior to many cups of this period. The paten is also plain : it has within a flat rim a shallow depression, which receives the lip of the cup. Marks : 2 offic. ; letter for 1623 ; maker's mark, C.X., on the X a small bird, not in *Cripps*. A flagon electro-plated.

POYNTINGTON.—The cup here has a baluster stem (so called because it resembles a baluster turned in a lathe), instead of the ordinary stem divided in the middle by a knop. It stands  $7\frac{1}{4}$  in. high. Marks : 2 offic. ; letter for 1634 ; maker's mark, W.S., in shield. *Cripps* gives this mark for 1640, with the addition of a small mullet below, which may have been obliterated in this case. P. is rudely scratched under foot, and there are signs of an inscription having been erased. This was probably done when the cup came to Poyntington. In the churchwardens' account for 1723 is this entry : ‘Paid for changing ye plate £1 14s. 0d.’ This seems to imply that then the churchwardens procured this cup with a modern cover, giving in exchange some older and smaller vessel and 34s. to



make up the balance. The present cover is simply fashioned out of a piece of silver plate, the edge turned up to form a flange, and a foot added on the other side. Round the foot : ‘ Poyntington 1723 ’ ; no other mark.

Paten and flagon, given by the Malet family, and bearing their arms. Paten on foot, width 8 in., weight 10 oz. 15 dwt. In centre, a shield surrounded by stiff mantling, bearing : three escallops, two in chief and one in base. Marks : 2 offic. ; date-letter rather broken, but perhaps that for 1659 ; maker’s mark, D.R. Flagon, tankard pattern with flat lid ;  $8\frac{3}{4}$  in. high ; diameter of foot  $6\frac{1}{2}$  in. Same arms as on paten. Marks : 2 offic. ; letter for 1664 ; maker’s mark, H.B. in monogram, with mullet below. The donor was probably Sir Thomas Malet, a judge of the Common Pleas, who was buried here 17th December, 1665, aged 83. For an account of this branch of the family, their triumphs and their wrongs, *see* Som. Arch. *Proceedings*, vol. xvi, ii, 67 and vol. xx, ii, 107. A silver dish of the Victorian era.

SANDFORD ORCAS.—The cup seems to be of two periods. It is  $5\frac{3}{8}$  in. high, the bowl is unusually wide for its depth. ; its diameter being  $3\frac{5}{8}$  in., and depth,  $3\frac{1}{4}$  in. ; it is quite plain. The stem and foot seem to belong to an Elizabethan cup, to judge from the egg-and-dart ornament round the latter. The stem has a small annular projection instead of a knop, it is roughly soldered to the bowl. No marks. The cover is quite plain with small foot or button. The only marks are two makers’ stamps : the first, the letters A.A., within a shield ; the second, the same initials within two circles, the inner one broken. Each of the marks is struck twice. Each pair is accompanied by another mark, too far gone to be clearly made out ; one seems to be a hand pointing up to the left.

Flagon of the tankard pattern, with spreading feet ;  $10\frac{3}{4}$  in. high. Marks : 2 offic. ; letter for 1727 ; maker’s mark, R.B.—Richard Bayley. Plain paten on foot,  $7\frac{3}{4}$  in. wide. Marks : 2 offic. ; letter for 1722 ; maker’s mark, W.D.—William

Darker. Inscribed on under side: 'The gift of Mrs. Eliz. Hunt.' The donor, who presented to the living in 1723, was the daughter of Edmund Lloyd, of London, Esq., and second wife (and widow) of John Hunt, of Sanford Orcas, and Compton Pauncefoot. She died 9th September, 1758, aged 72. (*Phelps.*)

STOWELL.—A small cup and cover of very peculiar design. The bowl of the cup is concave,  $2\frac{1}{8}$  in. wide at the lip, and  $2\frac{3}{8}$  in. at the base, which is square-edged instead of rounding off gradually. It has two fillets filled in with intermittent lines interlacing at the usual intervals, but the space between is left blank. The stem and foot are of the Gillingham type of cup (Nightingale, *Wilts Plate*, p. 82). The neck of the stem has a band of upright lines, then comes a large flange or knop, with bands of cable moulding round both edges; the stem is trumpet-shaped with a plain foot. The cover is plain, on the button 1574 within a circle filled in within chevron hatching. There is no mark on the cup; on the cover a small star with five points. This mark is also found on the Elizabethan cups at South Barrow and Keinton Mandeville (Castle Cary Deanery), but they are not at all like the one at Stowell, though differing in details from the ordinary type.

## Edmund Chisholm-Batten.

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SINCE our last issue the Society has sustained a great loss by the death of one who took, for many years, a lively interest in its welfare, and was almost to the last a constant attendant at meetings of the Committee. Mr. Edmund Chisholm-Batten, who was a J.P. for the county of Somerset, was born in 1817, and for many years resided on his manor of Thornfalcon, near Taunton. He was educated at Sherborne School, where he succeeded Mr. T. E. Rogers (Chancellor of the Diocese of Bath and Wells) as head boy.

In 1834 he proceeded to the University of Edinburgh, and the *Life and Letters of Principal J. D. Forbes* (a book which his godson, Major J. Forbes Chisholm-Batten, has presented to our Library) tells how the young English student was the favourite pupil and the life-long friend of the young Scotch Professor. Subsequently he was called to the Bar. The *Gentleman's Magazine* for 1843 records : —“ On August 1st, at Windlesham, Edmund Batten, barrister-at-law, to Jemima, only sister of The Chisholm.” On The Chisholm's death in 1858, this lady became the representative, the heiress-at-law, of the three last chiefs, her father and her two brothers. Edmund Batten then assumed the prefix of Chisholm, by Royal licence, and from that time his annual visit to Scotland, kept up till 1896, was usually extended to the Highlands. But he never lost touch with his native county. Literary tastes seemed to have been inherited with the manor of Thornfalcon, for his ancestor, Robert Batten, whose estate at Pitminster was sold to buy that manor, is credited with having written, over the initials

R. B., in the *Spectator*, to his friend, Sir Richard Steele. Mr. Chisholm-Batten wrote on various subjects (we give a list of his works at the end of this notice), and was interested in many associations, and was strenuous in all. Besides our own Society, he was a member of the Northern Meeting, the Highland Society of London, the Royal Society of Edinburgh, the Somersetshire Society, the Tithe Redemption Trust, and the Somersetshire Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society, whilst the biographer of Bishop Fox was gratefully nominated by Corpus Christi College, Oxford, as their representative on the governing body of Bishop Fox's School at Taunton. He was one of the earliest members of the British Association, and had been for more than fifty years a member of The Athenæum.

Mr. Chisholm-Batten died at Thornafalcon on Saturday the 13th of February, 1897, and was buried there (under the shadow of the church which he had repaired from floor to roof) beside his wife, who died in 1883 in the forty-first year of their marriage.

The following is a list of his contributions to the *Proceedings* of the Som. Arch. and Nat. Hist. Society.

On the Cause of the Heat of the Bath Waters	...	xxii, ii, 52
Gaulden Farm	..	xxiii, ii, 70
Henry VII in Somersetshire	...	xxv, ii, 49
The Holy Thorn of Glastonbury	...	xxvi, ii, 117
Letter Missive of King Henry VII to John Calycote of Shepton Mallet	...	xxx, ii, 159
The Admiralty Court of Minehead	...	xxxv, ii, 46
The Forest Trees of Somerset—The Walnut	...	xxxvi, ii, 175
„ „ The Elm	...	xxxvii, ii, 106
Obituary Notice of O. W. Malet	...	xxxvii, ii, 127
The Centenary of William Smith, LL.D., the Father of English Geology	...	xxxviii, ii, 351
Burton Pynsent	..	xl, ii, 155

Besides these he edited—"The Charters of Beaulieu Priory, Inverness-shire," in 1877, and in 1889 "The Register of Richard Fox, Bishop of Bath and Wells (1492-4)." To the latter he added, as an Introduction, a most valuable life of that prelate.

J. R. B.

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ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY  
SOCIETY.

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1850 TAUNTON	...	Rev. F. B. Portman.
„ BRIDGWATER	...	The Earl of Cavan.
„ FROME	...	F. H. Dickinson, Esq.
„ WELLS	...	The Right Hon. and Right Rev. Baron Auckland, Lord Bishop of Bath and Wells.
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1852 BATH	...	W. H. P. Gore-Langton, Esq.
1853 YEOVIL	...	Wm. Pinney, Esq.
1854 TAUNTON	...	Right Hon. H. Labouchere.
1855 DUNSTER	...	Sir W. C. Trevelyan, Bart.
1856 BRIDGWATER	...	Wm. Stradling, Esq.
1857 BRUTON	...	Rt. Hon. Lord Talbot de Malahide
1858 BRIDGWATER	...	The Hon. P. P. Bouverie.
1859 GLASTONBURY	...	F. H. Dickenson, Esq.
1860 CLEVEDON	...	R. N. Grenville, Esq.
1861 LANGPORT	...	R. N. Grenville, Esq.
1862 WELLINGTON	...	E. A. Sanford, Esq.
1863 WELLS	...	F. H. Dickinson, Esq.
1864 BURNHAM	...	F. H. Dickinson, Esq.
1865 SHEPTON MALLET		R. H. Paget, Esq.
1866 ILMINSTER	...	R. T. Combe, Esq.
1867 BRISTOL	...	Sir Edward Strachey, Bart.
1868 WILLITON	...	Sir A. A. Hood, Bart.
1869 AXBRIDGE	...	Wm. Long, Esq.

<i>Place of Meeting.</i>		<i>President.</i>
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Royal Irish Academy.  
Royal Society of Antiquaries of London.  
Guildhall Library, London.  
Associated Architectural Societies of Northampton, etc.  
Sussex Archæological Society.  
Suffolk Institute of Archæology and Natural History.  
Surrey Archæological Society.  
Lancashire and Cheshire Historic Society.  
Wiltshire Archæological and Natural History Society.  
London and Middlesex Archæological Society.  
Plymouth Institution and Devon and Cornwall Natural History Society.  
Kent Archæological Society.  
Bristol and Gloucestershire Archæological Society.  
Powys Land Club, Montgomeryshire.  
Derbyshire Archæological and Natural History Society.  
Shropshire Archæological and Natural History Society.  
Berkshire Archæological and Architectural Society.  
Hertfordshire Natural History Society.  
Essex Archæological Society.  
Norfolk and Norwich Archæological Society.  
Leicestershire Architectural and Archæological Society.



- Royal Institution of Cornwall.  
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Northamptonshire Naturalists' Society.  
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Geologists' Association.  
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Clifton Antiquarian Club.  
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Royal Norwegian University, Christiana.  
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Canadian Institute.  
Smithsonian Institution, Washington, U.S.  
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United States Geological Survey, Washington, U.S.  
Essex Institute, Salem, Massachusetts, U.S.  
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     Stradling, Rev. W. J. L. *Chilton-super-Polden*  
     Stringfellow, A. H. *The Chestnuts, Taunton*  
     Stuckey, Vincent, *Hill House, Langport*  
 510 Sully, Christopher W. *Downleaze, Sneyd Park, Bristol*  
     Sully, T. N., *Wembdon Road, Bridgwater*  
     Sully, J. Norman, *Bridgwater*  
     Sully, G. B. *Belmont, Burnham*  
     Summerfield, William, *Wilton Lodge, Taunton*  
 515 Swayne, W. T. *Glastonbury*

- †Sweetman, Geo. *Wincanton*  
 Tanner, Rev. T. C. *Burlescombe Vicarage, Wellington*  
 Taplin, T. K. *Mount House, Milverton*  
 Tarr, Francis John, *Roseneath, Willsbridge, near Bristol*
- 520 Taylor, Thomas, *Taunton*  
 Taylor, Rev. A. D. *Churchstanton*  
 Taylor, Rev. C. S. *Banwell, R.S.O. Somerset*  
 Taylor, Rev. J. H. *Ile Abbots*
- †Temple, Rt. Hon. Earl, *Newton House, Bristol, Trustee*
- 525 Thatcher, A. A. *Midsomer Norton, Bath*  
 Thatcher, Edwd. J. *Firfield House, Knowle, Bristol*  
 Thomas, C. E. *Granville, Lansdown, Bath*  
 Thompson, A. *Fowler Street, Rowbarton, Taunton*  
 Thompson, Rev. Archer, *Montrose, Weston Park, Bath*
- 530 Thompson, H. Stuart, *Brent Lodge, Bridgwater*  
 Thomson, Rev. G. O. L. *Mountlands, Taunton*  
 Thring, Rev. Preb. Godfrey, *Plonk's Hill, Shamley Green, Guildford*  
 Tilley, J. A. C. 73, *St. George's Square, London, S.W.*
- †Tite, C.
- 535 Tite, Mrs.  
 Todd, D'Arcy, 36, *Cambridge Terrace, Hyde Park, London*  
 Toft, Rev. H. *Axbridge*
- †Tomkins, Rev. H. G. *Weston-super-Mare*  
 Tomkins, Rev. W. S. 33, *Canyngs Square, Clifton, Bristol*
- 540 Tordiffe, Rev. Stafford, *Staplegrove*  
 Trask, Charles, *Norton, Ilminster*  
 Trenchard, W. J. *Heidelberg House, Mary Street, Taunton*
- †Trevilian, E. B. Cely, *Midelney Place, Drayton, v.p.*  
 Trusted, C. J. *Sussex House, Pembroke Road, Clifton*
- 545 Tucker, W. J. *Chard*  
 Tuckett, F. F. *Frenchay, Bristol*  
 Turner, H. G. *Staplegrove, and 19, Sloane Gardens, London, S.W.*  
 Tynte, Halswell M. Kemeys, *Halswell, Bridgwater*  
 Tynte, St. David Kemeys, *Sherwood, Goathurst*
- 550 Tyndale, J. W. Warre, *Evercreech, Bath (deceased)*  
 Ussher, W. A. E., *H.M. Geological Survey*  
 Valentine, E. W. *Somerton*  
 Wadmore, J. A. W. *Barrow Gurney, Bristol*  
 Wait, H. W. K. 13, *Paragon, Clifton*
- 555†Wakefield, J. E. W. *Taunton*  
 Waldron, Clement, *Llandaff, S. Wales*  
 Walter, W. W. *Stoke-sub-Hamdon*  
 Warry, G. D., *q.c. Shapwick*



- Warry, Henry Cockeram, *The Cedars, Preston Road, Yeovil.*
- 560 Watts, B. H., 13, *Queen Square, Bath*  
Weaver, Chas. *Uplands, St. John's Road, Clifton*  
† Weaver, Rev. F. W. *Milton Clevedon, Evercreech, General Secretary*  
Welch, C. 23, *Kensington Mansions, Nevern Square, London, S.W.*  
Wells, The Dean and Chapter
- 565 Wells, Theological College  
Were, F. *Gratwicke Hall, Barrow Gurney, Bristol*  
West, Rev. W. H. 25, *Pulteney Street, Bath*  
Westlake, W. H. *Taunton*  
Whale, Rev. T. W. *Weston, Bath*
- 570 Whistler, Rev. C. W., M.R.C.S. *Stockland, Bridgwater*  
Whitting, C. G. *Glandore, Weston-super-Mare*  
Wickham, Rev. A. P. *Martock*  
† Williams, Rev. Wadham Pigott, *Weston-super-Mare*  
Williams, Thos. Webb, *Flax-Bourton*
- 575 Wilkinson, Rev. Thos. *The Manse, Taunton*  
Wills, H. H. W. *Barley Wood, Wrington*  
Wills, Sir W. H. Bart. *Coombe Lodge, Blagdon, R.S.O., Somerset*  
Wilson, Rev. W. C. *Huntspill*  
Willcocks, A. D. *Taunton*
- 580 Winter, J. A. *Yorke House, Bideford*  
† Winterbotham, W. L., M.B. *Bridgwater*  
Winwood, Rev. H. H. 11, *Cavendish Crescent, Bath*  
Winwood, T. H. R. *Wellisford Manor, Wellington*  
Wood, Alexander, *The Laurels, Horsham, Sussex*
- 585 Wood, F. A. *Highfield, Chew Magna*  
Wood, Rev. W. Berdmore, *Bicknoller Vicarage*  
Woodforde, Rev. A. J. *Locking Vicarage, Weston-super-Mare*  
Wooler, W. H. *Weston-super-Mare*  
† Worthington, Rev. J. *Taunton*
- 590 Wright, W. H. K. *Free Library, Plymouth*  
Wyatt, J. W. *Eastcourt, Wookey, Weston-super-Mare*  
Young, T. *Chard.*

Members are requested to inform "The Secretaries, Taunton Castle" of any errors or omissions in the above list; they are also requested to authorise their Bankers to pay their subscriptions annually to Stuckey's Banking Company, Taunton; or to either of their branches; or their respective London Agents, on account of the Treasurer.

## Rules.

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**T**HIS Society shall be denominated "THE SOMERSETSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY;" and its object shall be the cultivation of, and collecting information on, Archæology and Natural History in their various branches, but more particularly in connection with the County of Somerset, and the establishment of a Museum and Library.

II.—The Officers of the Society shall consist of a Patron and Trustees, elected for life; a President; Vice-Presidents; General and District or Local Secretaries; and a Treasurer, elected at each Anniversary Meeting; with a Committee of twelve, six of whom shall go out annually by rotation, but may be re-elected. No person shall be elected on the Committee until he shall have been six months a Member of the Society.

III.—Anniversary General Meetings shall be held for the purpose of electing the Officers, of receiving the Report of the Committee for the past year, and of transacting all other necessary business, at such time and place as the Committee shall appoint, of which Meetings three weeks' notice shall be given to the Members.

IV.—There shall also be a General Meeting, fixed by the Committee, for the purpose of receiving reports, reading Papers, and transacting business. All Members shall have the privilege of introducing one friend to the Anniversary and General Meetings.

V.—The Committee is empowered to call Special Meetings of the Society upon receiving a requisition signed by ten Members. Three weeks' notice of such Special Meeting and its objects, shall be given to each Member.

VI.—The affairs of the Society shall be directed by the Committee (of which the Officers of the Society will be *ex-officio* Members), which shall hold monthly Meetings for receiving Reports from the Secretaries and sub-Committees, and for transacting other necessary business; three of the Committee shall be a quorum. Members may attend the Monthly Committee Meetings after the official business has been transacted.

VII.—The Chairman at Meetings of the Society shall have a casting vote, in addition to his vote as a Member.

VIII.—One (at least) of the Secretaries shall attend each Meeting, and shall keep a record of its proceedings. The property of the Society shall be held in Trust for the Members by twelve Trustees, who shall be chosen from the Members at any General Meeting. All Manuscripts and Communications and other property of the Society shall be under the charge of the Secretaries.

IX.—Candidates for admission as Members shall be proposed by two Members at any of the General or Committee Meetings, and the election shall be determined by ballot at the next Committee or General Meeting; three-fourths of the Members present balloting shall elect. The Rules of the Society shall be subscribed by every person becoming a Member.

X.—Ladies shall be eligible as Members of the Society without ballot, being proposed by two Members and approved by the majority of the Meeting.

XI.—Each Member shall pay Ten Shillings and Sixpence on admission to the Society, and Ten Shillings and Sixpence as an annual subscription, which shall become due on the first of January in each year, and shall be paid in advance.

XII.—Donors of Ten Guineas or upwards shall be Members for life.

XIII.—At General Meetings of the Society the Committee may recommend persons to be balloted for as Honorary and Corresponding Members.

XIV.—When an office shall become vacant, or any new appointment shall be requisite, the Committee shall have power to fill up the same: such appointments shall remain in force only till the next General Meeting, when they shall be either confirmed or annulled.

XV.—The Treasurer shall receive all Subscriptions and Donations made to the Society, and shall pay all accounts passed by the Committee; he shall keep a book of receipts and payments, which he shall produce whenever the Committee shall require it; the accounts shall be audited previously to the Anniversary Meeting by two Members of the Committee chosen for that purpose, and an abstract of them shall be read at the Meeting.

XVI.—No change shall be made in the laws of the Society except at a General or Special Meeting, at which twelve Members at least shall be present. Of the proposed change a month's notice shall be given to the Secretaries, who shall communicate the same to each Member three weeks before the Meeting.

XVII.—Papers read at Meetings of the Society, may (with the Author's consent and subject to the discretion of the Committee) be published in the *Proceedings* of the Society.

XVIII.—No religious or political discussions shall be permitted at Meetings of the Society.

XIX.—Any person contributing books or specimens to the Museum shall be at liberty to resume possession of them in the event of a dissolution of the Society. Persons shall also have liberty to deposit books or specimens for a specific time only.

XX.—In case of dissolution, the real property of the Society in Taunton shall be held by the Trustees, for the advancement of Literature, Science and Art, in the town of Taunton and the county of Somerset.

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### *Rules for the Government of the Library.*

1.—The Library shall be open for the use of the Members of the Society daily (with the exception of Sundays, Good Friday and Christmas Day), from Ten in the Morning till Five in the Afternoon, from April to August inclusive, and during the remaining months of the year until Four o'clock.

2.—Every Member of the Society whose annual Subscription shall not be more than three months in arrear may borrow out of the Library not more than two volumes at a time, and may exchange any of the borrowed volumes for others as often as he may please, but so that he shall not have more than two in his possession at any one time.

3.—Every application by any Member who shall not attend in person for the loan of any book or books shall be in writing.

4.—So much of the title of every book borrowed as will suffice to distinguish it, the name of the borrower, and the time of borrowing it, shall be entered in a book to be called the "Library Delivery Book;" and such entry, except the application be by letter, shall be signed by the borrower; and the return of books borrowed shall be duly entered in the same book.

5.—The book or books borrowed may either be taken away by the borrower, or sent to him in any reasonable and recognised mode which he may request; and should no request be made, then the Curator shall send the same to the borrower by such mode as the Curator shall think fit.

6.—All cost of the packing, and of the transmission and return of the book or books borrowed, shall in every case be defrayed by the Member who shall have borrowed the same.

7.—No book borrowed out of the Library shall be retained for a longer period than one month, if the same be applied for in the meantime by any other Member; nor in any case shall any book be retained for a longer period than three months.



8.—Every Member who shall borrow any book out of the Library shall be responsible to the Society for its safety and good condition from the time of its leaving the Library ; also if he borrow any book or manuscript within the Library, till it shall be returned by him. And in case of loss or damage, he shall replace the same or make it good ; or, if required by the Committee, shall furnish another copy of the entire work of which it may be part.

9.—No manuscript, nor any drawing, nor any part of the Society's collection of prints or rubbings shall be lent out of the Library without a special order of the Committee, and a bond given for its safe return at such time as the Committee shall appoint.

10.—The Committee shall prepare, and may from time to time add to or alter, a list of such works as shall not be lent out of the Library, on account of their rarity, value, or peculiar liability to damage ; or on account of their being works of reference often needed by Members personally using the Library, and a copy of such list for the time being shall be kept in the Library.

11.—No book shall be lent out until one month after the acquisition of it for the Library.

12.—Extracts from the manuscripts or printed books are allowed to be made freely, but in case of a transcript being desired of a whole manuscript or printed book, the consent of the Committee must be previously obtained.

13.—Persons not being Members of the Society may be admitted for a period not exceeding one week, to consult printed books and manuscripts not of a private nature in the Society's Library, for any special purpose, on being introduced by a Member, either personally or by letter.

14.—No book shall be lent to any person not being a Member of the Society without a special order of the Committee.

15.—Before any Member can borrow a book from the Library, he must acknowledge that he consents to the printed Rules of the Society for the Government of the Library.

\* \* *It is requested that contributions to the Museum or Library be sent to the Curator, at the Taunton Castle.*

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### Rules for the Formation of Local Branch Societies.

1.—On the application of not less than Five Members of the Society the Council may authorise the formation of a Local Branch in any District, and may, if considered advisable, define a specific portion of the County as the District to such Branch.



2.—Societies already in existence, may, on application from the governing bodies, be affiliated as Branches.

3.—All Members of the Parent Society shall be entitled to become Members of any Branch.

4.—A Branch Society may elect Local Associates not necessarily Members of the Parent Society.

5.—Members of the Council of the Parent Society, being Members of, and residing within the District assigned to any Branch, shall be *ex-officio* Members of the Council of such Branch.

6.—A Branch Society may fix the rates of Subscription for Members and Associates, and make Rules and Bye-Laws for the government of such Branch, subject in all cases to the approval of the Council of the Parent Society.

7.—A Branch Society shall not be entitled to pledge the credit of the Parent Society in any manner whatsoever.

8.—The authority given by the Council may at any time be withdrawn by them, subject always to an appeal to a General Meeting.

9.—Every Branch Society shall send its Publications and the Programmes of its Meetings to the Parent Society, and in return shall receive a free copy of the Parent Society's *Proceedings*.

10.—If on any discovery being made of exceptional interest a Branch Society shall elect to communicate it to the Parent Society before themselves making it a matter of discussion, the Parent Society, if it adopts it as the subject of a paper at one of its ordinary Meetings, shall allow the Branch Society to make use of any Illustrations that the Parent Society may prepare.

11.—Any Officer of a Branch Society, or any person recommended by the President, Vice-President, Chairman or Secretary, or by any Two of the Members of the Council of a Branch Society, shall on the production of proper Vouchers be allowed to use the Library of the Society, but without the power of removing books except by the express permission of the Council.

12.—Branch Societies shall be invited to furnish Reports from time to time to the Parent Society with regard to any subject or discovery which may be of interest.

December, 1897.



